

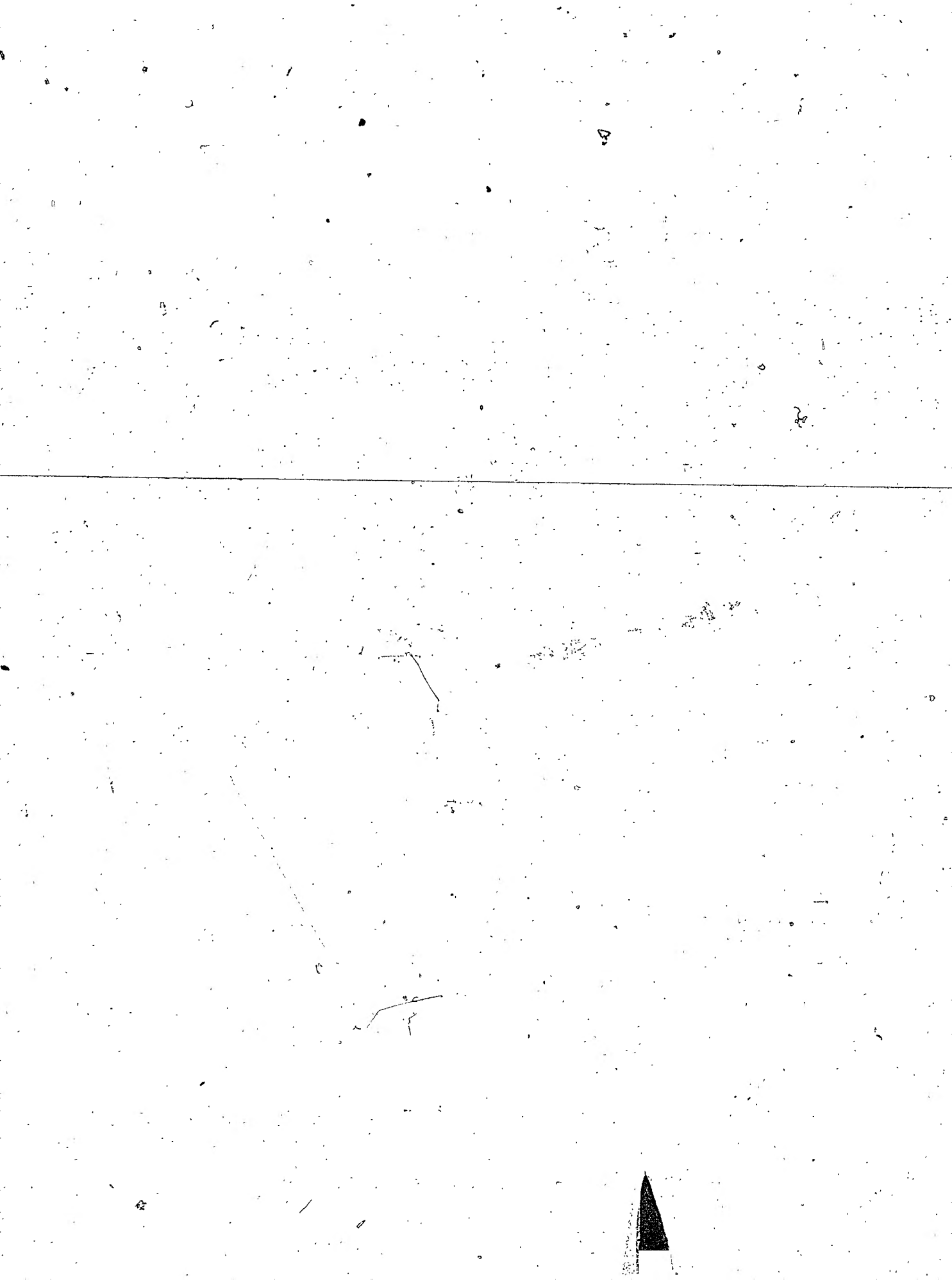
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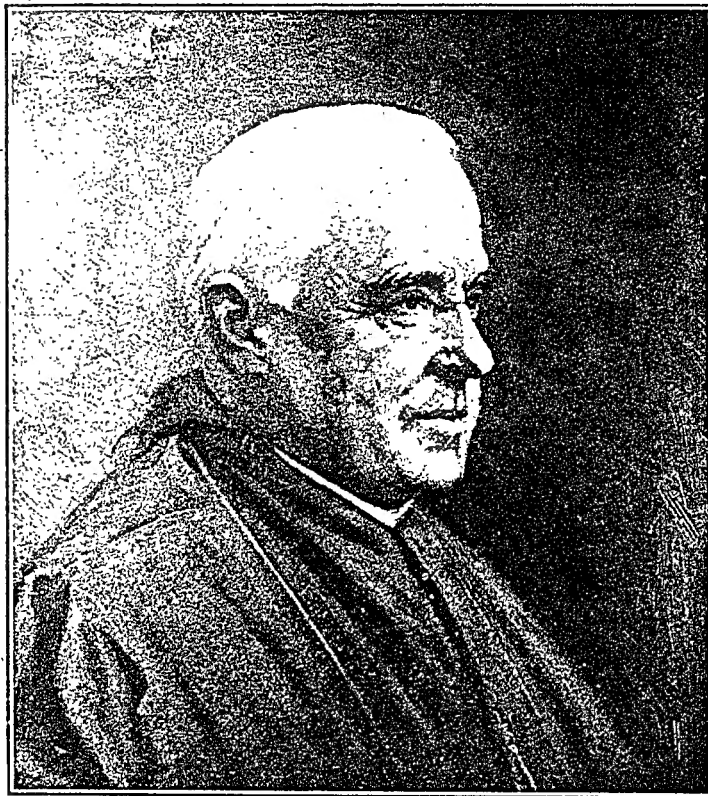
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CANADA

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Piusil James Henderson, F.S.A. A.

Archbishop Mathieu

*Presented to His Grace
by his friend
Norman Mackenzie, K.C., Regina*

AND I thought upon the days of old—

I had in mind the eternal years.

David, Psalm 76, 7.

*AND I have found that nothing is better than for a man to
rejoice in his work, and that is his portion.*

Ecclesiastes, 3:22.

*CAREFULLY study and show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly
handling the word of truth*

St. Paul, 2 Letter to Timothy 2, 15.

*THAT all the people of the earth may know that the Lord
he is God, and there is no other beside him.*

Solomon, in 3 Book of Kings 8, 60:



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GESTA DEI

(STRANGE FIRE)

SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE DAY OF
MONSEIGNEUR MATHIEU

REGINA



ISSUED ON THE
OCCASION OF
MONSEIGNEUR MATHIEU'S
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1928

TO
HIS GRACIOUS MAJESTY
KING GEORGE V
THIS BOOK
SETTING FORTH WHAT ONE MAN
ACHIEVED
FOR GOD AND EMPIRE
IS
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

*"One touch of fire,—and all the rest is mystery."
—Longfellow.*



Rosetti—

Foreword

CANADIANS find here a simple saintly life—that of a gentle Christian knight, Monseigneur Mathieu.

Amid the rich light and deep shade of the centuries, in every brightest and noblest exploit, in every lofty achievement—now in a Cid, now in a Pucelle, now in a Poverello—we have in man the flash of Divine life.

Froissart calls it the "gesta Dei."

Monseigneur Mathieu has in him this something. It touches his whole life with a strange glow, lighting up situations, institutions, and men.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "*La pensée dominante de ma vie a été d'harmoniser les différents éléments dont se compose notre pays. La pensée est vraie et elle finira par triompher.*"*

Monseigneur Mathieu's dominating idea has been not merely to harmonise the races of which the Dominion is composed but to harmonise them—under God.

The brave company who have chronicled these pages have given us a great story,—attesting the urge of the geste christien as a mighty power among men. Truly are these valued documents, "Kind letters, that betray the heart's deep history."

*Quoted by Earl Grey—"The King's Book."



Gesta Dei

A NATIONAL "dossier" OF CHRISTIAN ACHIEVEMENT

To Archbishop Mathieu,

"To you spontaneous affection has gone from all ranks and creeds for the holiness, gentleness and tactful sagacity characterising your activities, many of highest office, in your long years of priesthood.

Memory will not efface your record in the Seminary of Quebec nor your far-reaching influence in Laval University.

For Regina, however,—in the discharge of your duties as Chief Pastor, you have been altogether magnificent "

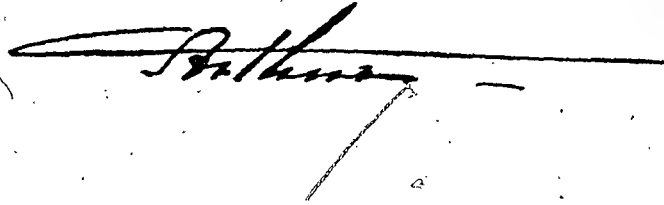
Piippo X

Achille Ratti
Bishop of Rome
Supreme Pontiff of the Universal
Church

G E S T A D E I

As Governor General of Canada I had many opportunities of meeting Mgr. Mathieu and no-one more appreciates the Christian spirit he showed in all matters concerning the great Dominion. As a high dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church, he at all times showed his loyalty and devotion to Canada and the Empire, and ever set an example of friendship and Christian spirit to all with whom he came in contact.

May he long be spared to serve his country.



H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught
Clarence House, St. James, S.W.

G E S T A D E I

We feel that in Archbishop Mathieu my wife and I have a real friend. We vividly recollect our visit to him at the hospital on that evening about a year ago during his serious illness when his charming and sympathetic advice to us both touched us very deeply. We rejoice in his recovery and trust that he may be spared many years to guide and direct his flock. Most heartily we send him our greetings and felicitations on this auspicious occasion.

Willingdon

His Excellency
Rt. Hon. Lord Willingdon of Ratton
Governor General of Canada

GESTA DEI

May I add a few words of heart-felt
wishes to one who so constantly
inspired me with the consciousness of
the will to good that exists around us.

A personality that endears itself, a
character that stimulates and a
friendship that emotionalizes.

May his remaining years with us be
blessed with the happiness he so well
deserves.

Byng of Vimy

Lord Byng of Vimy
England

GESTA DEI

What more stirring than the call of hero-blood across the centuries! Monseigneur Mathieu has recalled to us the rugged vigour of the Normans.

What a race!

With William and Tancred, we discover them a thousand years ago, in England, in Italy, merging in and making mighty peoples.

With Coeur-de-Lion, Godfroi, Joan d'Arc, we find them the soul of great Crusades. In America we have, in Huronia, the vine-covered ruins of Fort Ste. Marie, builded by Breboeuf and his fellow-Normans in 1633, a monument to the world's greatest epic of dauntless heroism. Quebec too has that Norman masonry in the seminary Laval fashioned into its very rock.

And now in the Western prairie we have this great-hearted Norman, Olivier Elzear Mathieu, jousting right lustily for his Christ and endowing a new people with a granite-like tradition.

All honour to this great friend of the Empire.

Laval

Lord Lovat
Scotland

GESTA DEI

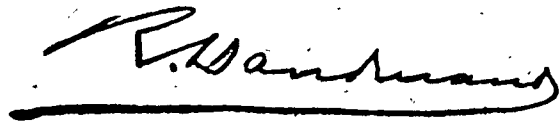
There are human beings who are, by their nature, truly and essentially sacerdotal. They are the very example of their teachings.

They need not preach "peace on earth to men of good will", because peace reigns where they dwell.

Intolerance is as abhorrent to them as sin itself.

Goodness radiates from their very soul.

Such is to my eyes the ideal shepherd, His Grace Mgr. Mathieu, Archbishop of Regina.



Hon. Raoul Dandurand
President of the League of Nations

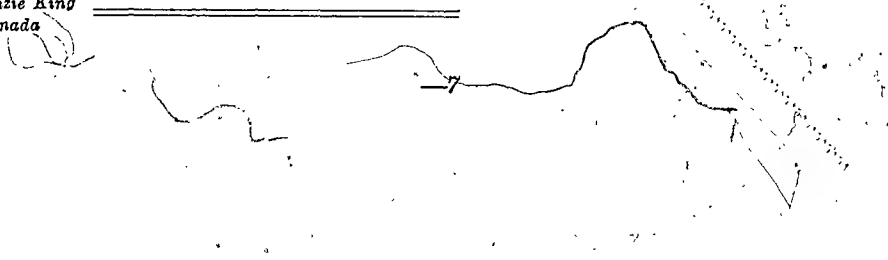
GESTA DEI

Monseigneur,

It is with feelings of deep personal regard that I avail myself of the privilege of tendering to you my hearty congratulations on the attainment of fifty years continuous and distinguished service to your fellow-citizens, your Church and your country. It was with great relief that your friends heard of your recovery from the serious illness which overtook you last year, and it is my hope that the blessing of your wise counsel and Christian spirit will be vouchsafed to Canada for many peaceful and happy years.

W. L. Mackenzie King

Rt. Hon. William L. Mackenzie King
Prime Minister of Canada



May I be permitted to offer my very warm and sincere tribute of love and admiration. It is many years since first we met in Ottawa when I sat next to you at the luncheon which followed the laying of the foundation stone of the University of Ottawa, then being rebuilt. I was then the leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament, and, if I remember correctly, you were Rector of the University of Laval (Quebec). I was impressed at once with your broad sympathies, your lovable nature, your rare unselfishness, and your fine outlook upon the purpose and duty of life. It seemed to me then and ever since that your influence and endeavour were for peace, goodwill and unity. Throughout your inspiring career you have exemplified the beatitudes.

K. L. Borden.



Of the friendships I have been privileged to win since entering public life some thirty-two years ago I treasure none more dearly than that of His Grace Archbishop Mathieu of Regina. I have followed the career of this distinguished prelate, foremost educationist and eminent Canadian with ever increasing pride. His life and achievements constitute a splendid milestone in Canada's national history.

Quebec parted sorrowfully and reluctantly with one of her noblest sons when His Grace faced the western sun of a late November day in 1911 and started on the journey across Canada to assume his new duties as Bishop of Regina. I leave to others the pleasurable task of reviewing the career of His Grace as Archbishop of Regina and his fifty years of loyal and fruitful service in the priesthood of the Catholic Church.

In my estimation, His Grace epitomizes all the chivalry and best traditions of New France coupled with the consciousness of a practical and understanding Canadianism. His saintly life partakes alike of the fragrance of the lilacs and eglantines bordering the highways and the bypaths of his native province, and the simplicity of the thatched cottages of rural Quebec. His character suggests the staunchness of the age-old Laurentians; his vision calls to mind those great streams that refuse to be trammelled by geographical or political boundaries.

I know of few contemporaries who have measured so fully to the highest standards of Canadian citizenship as

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His Grace Archbishop Mathieu. If it is true to say that he has constantly laboured with conspicuous zeal on behalf of Mother Church, it is equally true to say that he has ever given of his best endeavours to promote the interests of his native land.

The many friends, the citizens of various creeds and races who will assemble at Regina to celebrate His Grace's Golden Jubilee will pay tribute to a man who has devoted his energy and talents to the cause of a more united Canada and a broader national outlook. To his fellow-Canadians, irrespective of religious, national and class affiliations, he has been the herald of an old, old message with a new adaptation: "Peace in Canada to all men of good will".

With this humble tribute of affection and admiration to His Grace I would apply these lines of a noted English poet:

"We live in deeds, not years;
"In thoughts, not breaths;
"In feelings, not in figures on the dial;
"We should count time by heart throbs:
"He most lives
"Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

RODOLPHE LEMIEUX.

*Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux
Speaker of the House of Commons
Ottawa.*

Mgr. Mathieu's name will be remembered as one of the great architects of Canadian Unity. Even to the last the everlasting thought of his life, the service of his country, is with him. He is a most public-minded man—one of those who think of their country with all the intensity and devotion others less largely moulded give to private interests.

Peter Larkin

Hon. Peter Larkin
Canadian High Commissioner,
London, Eng.

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My venerable and esteemed friend, Archbishop Mathieu has been a worthy representative of the great Church he espoused as a young man, and on whose behalf he has laboured so consistently during the past half century.

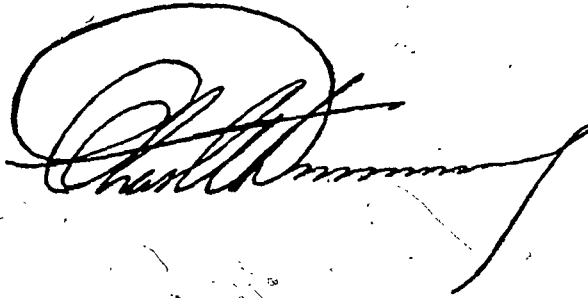
More able pens than mine will doubtless do honour to His Grace as a prelate and theologian. For myself, I would speak of those qualities of heart and mind that have endeared him to so many as a man and a friend, and as a distinguished citizen of Canada.

As a man, his relations with his fellows have invariably been characterized by the simple dignity that accords so well with nobility of mind and sincerity of soul. Like other great Canadians in different walks of life, he has been able to draw other men to him in bonds of fellowship regardless of race, creed, or politics. That ability to make and retain friends is, I should say, attributable to the breadth of view which has always marked his public intercourse, though this spirit of tolerance has never in any way weakened the steadfastness of purpose that has contributed so greatly to his influence in many directions. He has also had, in large measure, that supremely happy gift of being able to contribute to any subject of discussion the appropriate thought of the scholar and "the word fitly spoken" of the man of understanding.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Archbishop Mathieu should receive so many marks of distinction. His life has impressed itself for good upon his day and generation. He has been honoured by his King and by his Church, and now in this Golden Book of Remembrance his friends inscribe their appreciation of his virtues. It is a fitting

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and appropriate thing, because so often the merited word of commendation is recorded all too late, and his many friends will, I feel sure, be happy in the thought that these expressions of regard may afford their distinguished recipient a proper satisfaction and a measure of consolation in the evening of his days.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Charles A. Dunning". The signature is written in dark ink and is the central focus of the lower half of the page.

Hon. Chas. A. Dunning
Minister of Railways, Ottawa

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The pageantry of Quebec's great fete in 1908 was of historic significance. It was not merely a masque or rehearsal of the romantic past,—it was actual. It was the first genuine "Get-together" of the British Empire, with French-Canada playing host.

Earl Grey it was who grasped the idea in its magnitude. The stirring grandeur of the primeval struggles of America, Champlain's unwavering faith, the courage of his heroic successors, all the old-world dignity of the XVII century formed a wonderful "mise-en-scene" for the affirming of the new order. Ancient racial elements harmonising, in conscious freedom, into one great British People loyal to God and King—that was the world import of the Quebec Tercentenary.

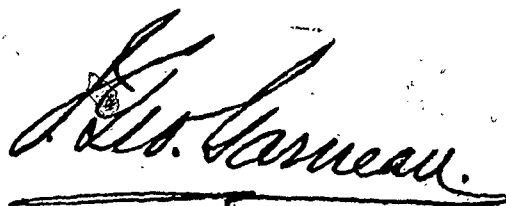
The British Fleet at anchor in the shadow of the Quebec Citadel, the presence of our present most gracious Sovereign, with His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Roberts, Lord Lovat and many other distinguished Britishers from over-seas was the expression of the British Empire finding itself "chez soi". For such an occasion more than ordinary forces were needful in interpreting the spirit of Canada. The Canadians who did this thing were no ordinary men. They were men of vision and men of will, understanding the possibilities of the future, equally wise to use the opportunities of the present. Outstanding among them were Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mgr O. E. Mathieu. Photography has preserved a record of this wonderful manifestation of British kinship and geniality; and Canada will long cherish the memory of the Royal banquet at Petit-Cap where Mgr Mathieu, with all the rare gifts of graciousness which are

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his, was host to the most distinguished gathering yet witnessed in America. France was there,—so too the United States—in the person of Vice-President Fairbanks;—but the all-significant thing was that the British Empire was there, with its King and its representatives from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Newfoundland.

When I think of the great work of Mgr Mathieu in Western Canada, my mind often carries back to the Quebec of 1908 and to the rugged idealism of Earl Grey then such an inspiration to us all. Perhaps the story is told somehow by the flowers on the Battlefield Park which annually spell out in their loveliness the Grey legend: *De bon vouloir servir Dieu et le Roy.*”

That certainly has been the spirit of Mgr Mathieu.


A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sir George Garneau". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Sir George Garneau
Chairman Battlefields' Commission:

G E S T A D E I

Since my arrival in Canada some years ago I have had an opportunity of meeting Monseigneur Mathieu from time to time and of observing the far-reaching character of his work and influence.

If I were permitted to use but one word to describe the rich and fruitful life of His Grace that word would be "service". He has served with outstanding distinction his Race, his Country, the Empire and his Church. Laying aside the cares and responsibilities of his Rectorship of Laval University at a time of life when many men would have sought rest and retirement, he went on, from strength to strength, doing great things for his people and for Canada. True Canadianism has no firmer no better informed a champion.

Through his zeal and wise direction, he has greatly helped his people to find on the fertile plains of Saskatchewan those institutions and social advantages which ensure the perpetuation of their best traditions and their material and spiritual happiness.

His work in Western Canada is true Empire Building. To it is due much of that rich and valuable western migration from the Mother-Province of Quebec to the Prairies—a migration potent in its value to the development of our country, and an effective alternative to the serious loss of Eastern Canadians through expatriation.

Honoured by his King and by his Church, beloved by his people, and admired for his sterling patriotism, broad spirit and generous love of his fellowmen, we wish His Grace "*Ad Multos Annos Faustissimos*".



Sir Henry Thornton
Canadian National Railways

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I have always retained, and shall always retain, the warmest recollections of the kindness and ability with which your Grace gave the benefit of your wide experience to the members of the Board of Visitors of the Royal Military College, Kingston, and to me in particular as its Chairman, when you came to assist us in our deliberations. That was more than twenty years ago, and I am proud to think that the friendship with which you honoured me then has continued ever since.

Those who like myself know something—if only a part—of the eminent services you rendered to Canada and the Empire during their great struggle in the cause of civilisation, honour and right must always rejoice, as I do, that Your Grace has so long been spared to carry on those same services during the reaction which has followed the strain of war.

Percy Lake

Sir Percy Lake
President Canadian Legion



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Since his coming to the West, we know Archbishop Mathieu as a devout Servant of the Lord and man. His gracious influence and the great love and respect with which he is held by all mark him as a mighty figure in moulding the destinies of Canada. As a power for good, Archbishop Mathieu is at his best in smoothing out the racial and religious differences that sometimes crop up, especially in new communities, and here his words of counsel and his cultured manner bears fruit in abundance.

During his recent serious illness, his readiness to go to his last rest, if it were the Divine Will, showed an abiding faith in a personal and loving God that left no guesswork in the eternal verities of the Christian religion and his strong faith therein.

Questions such as the possible evolution of man and where he sprang from originally, worries not the good Archbishop a whit, but it does cause him thought and prayer where man is going to finally.

W. R. Motherwell

Hon. W. R. Motherwell
Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Directeur du Petit Séminaire, à Québec, Monseigneur Mathieu remplissait simultanément le double rôle d'éducateur et de père de la nombreuse famille confiée à ses soins; non seulement orientait-il sagement le développement moral et intellectuel des élèves dont il avait charge, mais il s'appliquait, et avec quelle sollicitude, à diriger leurs aspirations, leurs ambitions pour plus tard, s'intéressant à leurs projets et leur donnant volontiers les conseils que lui inspirait son expérience des hommes et des choses. Elle leur était toujours ouverte, sa porte; son coeur aussi: Nul n'a jamais frappé en vain à l'une ou à l'autre. Que de courages il a relevés! Que d'ambitions, que d'élans il a soutenus! Que d'idées saines il a semées et entretenues chez ceux qui venaient lui confier leurs difficultés, leurs problèmes, et recevoir de ses lèvres la direction à suivre!

Bon, indulgent pour ses élèves, Monseigneur Mathieu ne manquait cependant pas de fermeté. Mais, celle-ci, au lieu de s'appuyer sur la férule, sur les menaces et les punitions sévères, se manifestait par des remontrances sages, adroites, par des appels sensibles à la raison et au bon sens.

Devenu Recteur de l'Université, Monseigneur Mathieu a continué le bienfaisant apostolat qu'il exerçait au Petit Séminaire. Ceux qu'il avait dirigés et encouragés pendant leurs études secondaires furent heureux de se retrouver sous ses ordres, et, plus tard, une fois dans le monde et aux prises avec la vie, de revenir, souvent, recevoir de sa bouche les conseils pratiques dont ils avaient besoin.

Le stage de Monseigneur Mathieu à Laval marque une époque de progrès dans le domaine de l'éducation. L'heureuse influence qu'il exerçait alors à l'Université rayonnait bien au delà, se manifestant dans tous les centres d'enseignement de notre province. Aussi, son départ de Québec pour Régina dont il devait occuper le siège archiepiscopal, laissa-t-il dans notre champ éducationnel un vide difficile à combler, sans parler des regrets amers que cette perte causa aux nombreux amis que l'ancien directeur du Petit Séminaire allait laisser derrière lui.

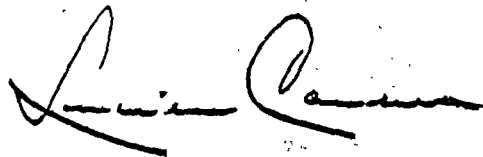
Dans l'Ouest, Monseigneur Mathieu devait prendre très vite sur les esprits un ascendant considérable. La tâche de concilier les intérêts divers et multiples des nom-

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breux groupes ethniques et disparates dont se compose population des Prairies n'était pas facile. Il fallait un homme de la trempe et du caractère de Monseigneur Mathieu pour entreprendre et mener à bonne fin cette oeuvre d'union et de pacification. Plusieurs années durant, il a prêché, par la parole et par l'exemple, une religion non pas de crainte et de menaces, mais de bonté; une religion où tous, sans distinction de race ou de langage, trouvaient refuge. Il a lutté courageusement, non seulement pour la survivance, mais pour l'expansion du français qu'il a fait aimer et respecter. Partout, il a semé l'esprit de tolérance nécessaire dans un pays comme le nôtre, et surtout dans l'Ouest où les frottements de race ayant chacune son idiome et ses croyances sont continus.

L'habileté, le désintéressement dont il a fait preuve dans l'accomplissement de ces oeuvres ont valu à l'Archevêque de Régina la considération et l'admiration de tous les hommes publics qui l'entourent. Aussi, le tiennent-ils en haute estime et font-ils très souvent appel à ses lumières et à son expérience lorsqu'il s'agit pour eux de prendre des décisions importantes où viennent se greffer les questions de race et de croyances.

D'une noble largeur de vues, prompt à saisir le côté pratique d'une affaire, Monseigneur Mathieu s'applique à comprendre et à concilier entre eux, au moyen de compromis honorables, et sans toutefois pactiser avec l'erreur, les intérêts souvent juxtaposés des différentes classes de la société. Il accomplit en cela oeuvre nationale. Le Canada est fier de lui; la population l'aime, le vénère et l'admire. Monseigneur Mathieu est en même temps qu'un pacificateur, un homme d'action, un "bâtisseur". Que la Providence nous le conserve encore longtemps! La noble cause à laquelle il a consacré le meilleur de sa vie en a besoin.



Hon. Lucien Cannon
Solicitor General, Ottawa

As a pioneer settler of the West, I treasure the associations of the early days and fully appreciate the strong influence which your work has had upon the development, spiritual and social, of the middle-West—that part of Canada we love to call our home.

As a pioneer in the real sense, your life has been one of devoted service and always by precept and principle you preach that the Christian religion must be the great moral and uplifting force if we are to establish in this new land a happy and contented Canadian people.

Chas Stewart

Hon. Chas. Stewart
Minister of the Interior, Ottawa

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You are an example to all of true Canadianship and a broad spirit of national idealism. Your career has been that of a Saint who has done great things for God and His Church. It has also been that of a nation builder who did not fear to leave his friends and the city to which he was so attached to go into the wide spaces of the western part of our beautiful country to help men understand better one another, to create a spirit of unity amongst them and to inspire a greater sentiment of love and loyalty to Canada.

*Extract from Jubilee Wire of
Ernest Lapointe*

*Hon. Ernest Lapointe
Minister of Justice, Ottawa.*

Through all the winds and weeping of this rough world Monseigneur Mathieu has trained us to hear the still small voice of Almighty God.

This sainted leader of men has ever taught us that however humans may fail or stumble God will love and save those who try to love and obey Him as they understand Him.

That is the simple faith of this great man and to his faith I cling. He has wrought great things for Canada.

Jacques Bureau

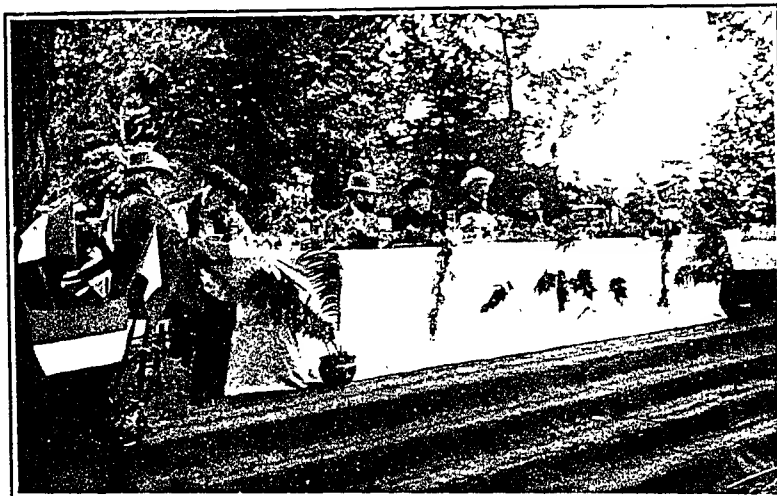
Hon. Senator Jacques Bureau
Three Rivers, P. Q.

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Few men have won for themselves such a peculiar place in the regard of those with whom they have come in contact as the learned and lovable Archbishop of Regina. His highmindedness, his great ability and the affection in which he is held in Quebec and the West make his position unique even among great Canadians and great Churchmen. His tolerance and his understanding of national and racial conditions in this country have been of incalculable value to Canada.

Wm. L. O'Connell

E. W. Beatty, Esq.
Canadian Pacific Railway



MONSEIGNEUR MATHIEU PLAYS HOST TO THE EMPIRE

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, LADY GREY, H. M. KING GEORGE V., MGR. O. E. MATHIEU,
EARL GREY, CARDINAL BEGIN, DUKE OF NORFOLK AND LORD LOVAT.

Your Grace:

To extend felicitations to anyone at the close of a half century of continuous endeavour is an alloyed pleasure: when that one, however, has engaged in a most unselfish and conspicuously successful manner in the service alike of God and humanity, the offering of congratulations becomes a welcome duty. I feel it is doubly proper on this occasion that I should offer my humble tribute. In the first place, as a layman, I can not review your life work without a feeling of admiration: and in the second place, due to the traditional amity that has existed between our respective races, as a descendant of the Irish race, it is only fitting I should offer testimony to the great work of a distinguished son of the noble French race which has done so much for our great, young country.

Permit me for a few moments to review some of the chief points in your career, which must command alike the admiration of those who agree and those who disagree in religious faith. Nearly seventy-five years have passed since you first entered this world. I must pause to remark that your subsequent eminence inspires the thought that your childhood must have been spent in a kindly, Christian home, the like of which is the corner stone of our civilization. To your respected parents we undoubtedly owe a debt. In your early youth you studiously applied yourself to acquiring that erudition by which you subsequently became known. So well did you progress in your studies that before you reached the age of twenty-five you were deemed worthy of the honour you had dedicated yourself to attain, namely, the priesthood.

Your studies before and subsequent to this time gave

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you the highest standing in your chosen field, and after your early association with Laval University at Quebec, led logically to the Rectorship of that seat of learning, while you were still scarcely advanced above middle age. In such a post you came in daily contact with the youth of the nation—our most valuable asset. The influence you wielded upon the rising generation was immense, and need I recall that you worked unceasingly for a better manhood, a greater and a more noble citizenship?

The Holy Father, seeing your abilities and anxious to utilize them in a larger field, gave striking testimony of his esteem by naming you, in the year 1911, as Bishop of the newly created See of Regina. In 1915 His Holiness gave still further, and well deserved, recognition, by raising your See to the dignity of an Archbishop, and by appointing you as its first Archbishop. Your labours in Regina are too well known to require any extended mention. You have worked continuously in the spiritual and temporal interests of the flock entrusted to your solicitous care. Here again education has been the object of your most earnest endeavours, and much you have accomplished in this direction. As bishop and Archbishop your pastoral letters have been models, and, in passing, I would like to refer to the fact that proper relations between workers and employers have more than once called forth from you special mention, that the principles of religion might be translated into the daily actions of men. As a speaker your abilities have frequently been recognized by your being invited to deliver addresses on the occasions of functions of importance to both Church and State. Your sermon at the funeral of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier will long be remembered.

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Realization of your services rendered in the causes of Church, of State, and of education have earned for you recognition from abroad. His Majesty the King graciously conferred on you the honour of companionship in the Order of St. Michael and St. George; the Government of France, seeing your work in behalf of Education, made you an Officer de L'Instruction Publique and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour; while the Pope has on more than one occasion given testimony to the esteem in which he holds you.

Such a record of service in matters spiritual and temporal is indeed one to inspire admiration.

Peter Heenan

Hon. Peter Heenan
Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

GESTA DEI

Représentant de la France dans cette partie du Dominion, je ne veux que remercier Votre Grandeur de la part qui en a rejailli sur mon pays. Fils de cette race qui a si souvent déjà contribué à l'histoire du Canada, Vous avez fait plus qu'en continuer les nobles traditions, Vous êtes devenu une de ses grandes figures. Votre exemple illustre a étendu encore en ce pays l'influence morale de la France et l'amour de sa langue, de ce français que les fils du Québec considèrent, après leur religion, comme le plus précieux de leur patrimoine.

Nous en sommes heureux et fiers et c'est de tout mon coeur qu'en offrant à Votre Grandeur mon respectueux hommage je souhaite à son diocèse qu'Elle lui soit conservée de longues années encore.

P. Suzor.

*Monsieur P. Suzor
Consul de France
Vancouver, B. C.*



SASKATCHEWAN

I have always held a very high opinion of His Grace Archbishop Mathieu and therefore am very glad to have this opportunity of congratulating him on his Golden Jubilee.

We are very glad that he has been restored to his usual good health after his long illness and hope that he may be long spared to us to continue his good work in Saskatchewan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading "H. W. Newlands".

Hon. Henry W. Newlands
Lieutenant Governor, Saskatchewan



It is a privilege to have an opportunity to write a tribute to a Saint who has been permitted to serve his country, his church and his God so long and so faithfully as has His Grace, Mgr. Mathieu, Archbishop of Regina. An hour's conversation with him would convince the most skeptical that the motive governing his every act is a love of mankind which must have been inspired by close communion with God. To meet with his many pupils who are filling important positions of national and industrial trust in eastern Canada is to learn that so long as they live his influence will be felt throughout Canada. To trace his activities in this Province is to realize that next to an inspired love of mankind in general he carried with him, as an incentive to service, a broad, generous, magnanimous heart and mind, fired with the future possibilities of this Province as part of Canada.

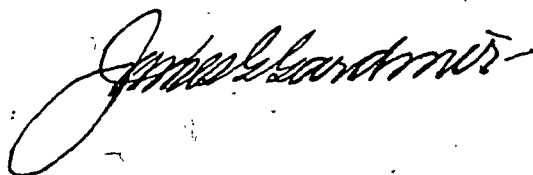
The insignia which appears in the corner of his stationery portrays better than any other coat-of-arms I have

GESTA DEI

ever seen the record of the life of him whose motto it carries.

He asks nothing, he seeks nothing but that man should worship God, if possible under the protection of his Church, but in any case worship God and live at peace with one another. He appears to have done as much toward that end as any one single man could accomplish in half a century. When he lays down his task it will be said by all, he served man, his country and his God. What greater tribute could mortal man desire?

I appreciate being numbered among the friends of such a man.



Hon. J. G. Gardiner
Prime Minister of Saskatchewan

GESTA DEI

It would appear that oftentimes people postpone their tributes to men of exemplary character and worth until too late; then, in all the poignant realization of their loss they launch forth into posthumous eulogies, erect monuments to commemorate and write books to perpetuate these men's wonderful work.

The great leaders of war, from the spectacular nature of their service, receive immediate recognition. Seldom however, is it given to a great leader of peace to have his services appreciated during his life-time, as is accorded to that great Canadian—His Grace, Archbishop Mathieu.

The wonderful work of this man of peace requires to be seen in perspective to be valued at anything like its true worth. It has been granted to His Grace to complete fifty years of service in the vineyard of the Lord, during which years he has carved for himself a monument more lasting than gilded bronze or sculptured marble in the hearts of all who have come within the compass of his friendship and personality.

Seventeen years ago, at the call of duty, a peaceful crusader left his native Quebec for the far-flung mission field of Saskatchewan. He came laden with honours, yet bearing them lightly—a great teacher: a noted savant: an inspired ecclesiastic: a kindly Christian gentleman. For seventeen years he has laboured in our midst, and by the charm and spell of his wonderful personality, his sympathy and understanding, he has won the hearts of men of all races and creeds with whom he has come in contact. The value of his services to his people, to Saskatchewan, to the Dominion as a whole, cannot be measured. His example

GESTA DEI

and influence have done infinitely more to promote racial and religious tolerance, to enhance the material, moral and spiritual welfare of the people, than can be expressed by word or pen.

We who have realized his wonderful influence, the soothing touch that made rough places smooth, feel that for the past seventeen years there dwelt among us a power and inspiration for peace, good-will and harmony.

In offering our congratulations at this time, and our prayers for many future years of service, we can say with full hearts, and in all simplicity:

“Where thou art, love is born—that deeper love, transcending earthly love, which has its roots in Heaven.”

J. M. Uhrich.

*Hon. J. M. Uhrich
Minister of Public Works and Public
Health, Saskatchewan*

G E S T A D E I

Your Grace's personal friendship, and the many considerate and thoughtful ways in which it was shown, are among the happiest memories of my term of office at Regina. But beyond this, and from a public standpoint, I am very conscious of the great service you rendered to the Dominion by your wise and tactful counsels during the anxious and trying days of the great war.

That you may be long spared, not only for the duties of your own High Office but also to spread abroad that kindly influence for good which those of all classes, who have the privilege of coming in contact with you, know so well, is my earnest wish. In this hope my wife most warmly desires to be allowed to associate herself.

R. S. Lake

*Sir Richard Lake
Former Lieutenant Governor of
Saskatchewan*

GESTA DEI

Your Grace's life has been a most active and useful one and you have over a period of many years rendered a great service not only to the Church in which you occupy such a high and honorable position, but also to the people of all classes in the Dominion.

The years you spent in Laval University resulted in an influence which I am sure, cannot be estimated. During these years you had as your pupils many young men who subsequently occupied—and indeed many of them now occupy—very prominent places in the public life of Canada. It has been my privilege in years past to meet many of these men and every one of them on all occasions has inquired about you, has spoken of you in the most kindly terms and I know that many of them attribute their success to the splendid influence you exercised over them in their earlier days.

Since coming to the Province of Saskatchewan you have always pursued a policy of moderation whenever dissension was likely to arise, and during my residence here now of twenty-five years, I know of no man who has done more to establish harmony among all sections of our people. My earnest wish is that you may long be spared to continue the course which you have always followed—a course which in my judgement is so essential to the progress not only of Saskatchewan but of the whole Dominion.

Wm Martin

Hon. Justice W. M. Martin
Former Premier of Saskatchewan

Monseigneur Mathieu fut à la fois l'homme de Dieu et l'homme du peuple, alliant à une rare distinction d'esprit et de coeur cette affabilité proverbiale qui sut lui gagner les sympathies et lui assurer tous les suffrages.

Dans ce vaste concert d'acclamations et de louanges qui s'élèvera en son honneur de toutes les classes de la société, ce nous est un impérieux devoir en même temps qu'un vrai bonheur d'associer notre humble voix avec des accents sincères de joie, de reconnaissance et d'affectueuse vénération.

Daigne le Dieu Tout-Puissant conserver de longues années encore le vénérable Archevêque de Régina, pour que nous puissions bénéficier de son dévouement, de sa sagacité et de sa paternelle bienveillance.

Ad multos et faustissimos annos!

+ Joseph H. Prud'homme

Mgr. J. H. Prud'homme
Bishop of Prince Albert and
Saskatoon

The dominant feeling in my breast, as I write, is one of gratitude towards a beloved pastor. I owe so much to His Grace, I have been so often the object of his kindness, I have reaped so much benefit from my intercourse with him during a period of nearly twenty years, that the feeling of filial affection for him is stronger with me to-day than any other sentiment.

I well remember the visit I paid to him in his little room in the Seminary of Quebec on the day I learned of his appointment to the new See of Regina. He was then in the late fifties. He had spent all the years of his manhood in the study and the teaching of philosophy and theology, and had never been charged with duties of even a parochial nature. And suddenly this scholar, this intellectual, whose life had been given to the pursuit of learning and to the practice of a devout but quiet piety, was being called to take up the task of organising and administering a new and immense diocese, in a region fresh from the hands of the missionary and in which the great majority of the population were not of his faith or race. He told me frankly of his doubts and misgivings, but I knew as he spoke that his courage and his faith would make his burden light and lead him in safety through his difficulties.

And so it has come to pass. Time has vindicated the administration of the Archbishop and his ways of dealing with men. The result is reflected in the condition of his flock. The situation of the Catholic Church in Saskatchewan to-day bears impressive testimony to his wisdom as a pastor and as a leader, under Divine guidance.

Few men, I believe, have possessed Archbishop

GESTA DEI

Mathieu's profound knowledge of the human heart and of human problems, a knowledge equalled only by the depth of his sympathy and the strength of his desire to be of service. His career has been one of good works and good counsel, an example and an encouragement to great numbers in all walks of life and all classes and creeds,—to all, indeed, who have enjoyed the privilege of his friendship. Truly he appears to me as one of those whom Daniel saw in his prophetic vision, filled with a beneficent wisdom that shall perpetuate their memory, and shining for all time as the stars of Heaven because they have brought back many to faith and hope, and a new life.

W. A. Turgeon

Hon. W. A. Turgeon
Appeal Court, Regina

G E S T A D E I

I first met His Grace Archbishop Mathieu at the reception given to him by the citizens on his arrival in Regina in 1911.

Being a friend of a great friend of his it was my privilege to meet him more often and more intimately than I otherwise would. Not belonging to the religious body whose destiny in Saskatchewan it was his particular charge to direct, it is only from others that I know of the power for good he has been among his people and the success that has attended his administration. It is as man and citizen that I learned to know and esteem him.

As a citizen one cannot but admire the broad sympathy which characterizes his relations with his fellow men. Whatever makes for the welfare of the citizen or the betterment of the social or civic life of the people among whom he lives, claims at once not only his interest but his active support.

It is however as a man that I most highly prize his acquaintance and esteem his friendship. In meeting His Grace in friendly conversation and discussing with him the affairs of daily life, the questions of the hour or the speculations and theories of philosophy, government or education, I was always impressed with the calm and complete command which he had of himself and the serenity of his outlook. He always appeared to look at each question from a serene height with an eye unclouded by passion, prejudice or jealousy, which too often influence our point of view.

Another feeling I always experienced in our interviews was a consciousness of his dignity, but it was a dignity so tempered by gentleness that it seemed rather like kindness holding out the hand of friendship. It is, I think, this spirit of kindness, gentleness and uprightness that has enabled His Grace in his adopted province to dissipate to a great extent the mist of distrust and suspicion that too

G E S T A · D E I

often has prevented Roman Catholics and Protestants from recognizing each others many good qualities and co-operating for the common good.

As I am now separated from His Grace by nearly two thousand miles I may be permitted to say that I look back upon the hours spent in his company with peculiar pleasure and I esteem very highly the privilege of being admitted to his friendship and of being classed as "one of his boys".

I may further say that on the occasion of all my visits to him, I never went out from his presence without feeling that I had left a man who by his life, his walk and conversation "allured to a brighter world and led the way".

J. H. Lamont

Hon. J. H. Lamont
Supreme Court, Ottawa

The Quebec Chronicle AND QUEBEC GAZETTE

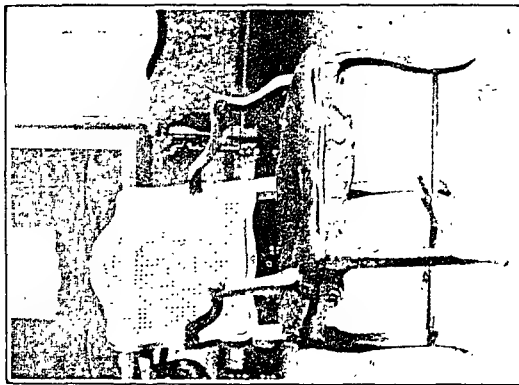
QUEBEC, SEPTEMBER 23, 1921

AN HISTORIC INCIDENT

In the heart of the Canadian West in the prairie city of Regina, there is treasured an historic relic of a sacred endowment to old Quebec. It is the chair of Mgr. Laval, the first Bishop of New France.

Through the centuries, the chair rested in the old seminary Laval himself founded. When in 1912, however, the Holy See elected to bring to the Church in the Western prairie the first traditionalism and most illustrious executive of the then Rector of Laval University, Mgr. Mathieu, Quebec determined that the chair of Bishop Laval should go with him as a symbol to the West of the chivalrous spirit of kindness and spirituality Mgr. Mathieu possessed and the universal love and esteem he enjoyed among his fellow-citizens—a suggestion which, without regard to race or creed, was not lost on Western Canadians.

It is only with thought of this chair of Mgr. Laval in mind that one may correctly interpret the presence of Archbishop Mathieu in Regina.



The Laval Chair—taken of a great Canadian tradition—now in Regina.

GESTA DEI

Your Grace,

May I join in the congratulations which you are receiving upon the completion of fifty years of service to your Church and Canada. Great as has been the length of your service still greater has been its character and quality. Few are they who had such opportunities for influencing the lives of others, and still fewer are they who have made such wise and noble use of their opportunities.

At Laval, you moulded the lives of the ablest young men whom Quebec has seen in this generation and through them your influence has penetrated to the highest offices in the land. Beyond the circle of your devoted students and your colleagues your gracious and kindly influence has extended and touched the hearts of men of differing creeds and tongues. Yours has been a healing influence, blessing what e'er it touched.

To the intellectual, the artistic and the religious life of Canada the French people have made large and lasting contributions. In you French culture found a distinguished representative who interpreted it to people of other speech and race and gave it an added charm by the graciousness of your manner and the kindliness of your heart.

That better understanding between French and English, which every right thinking Canadian believes to be essential for our national well being, you have promoted on every occasion and in every way. May it grow and increase with the passing of the years until French and English forget their different origins and think only of Canada, the land of their birth, their labours and their love.

Walter Murray

Walter Murray, LL.D.
Pres. University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon

GESTA DEI



The development of the more Northern parts of Saskatchewan has been notable for its character of stability, and in this the influence of Archbishop Mathieu has been remarkable. In the pioneer undertakings of Abbots Bruno and Ott, his counsel and foresight was of practical aid—and the Monks of St. Benedict in Saskatchewan look to him with singular love and attachment.

Severin Gertken

Abbot Severin Gertken
St. Peter's Abbey
Muenster, Sask.



Archbishop Mathieu is a great Canadian and has always sought to have all our people live together in peace and contentment. One has but to meet him to appreciate his desire for upright and honest dealing. To know him intimately is to know a very conscientious servant of his Church, a Citizen devoted to his Country and a man beloved by all. My wish is that he may serve for many more years and, restored to physical health, enjoy that communion and fellowship with his fellow citizens which is so pleasing and inspiring to them.

J. McARA.

Lieut.-Col. James McARA
Mayor, Regina

GESTA DEI

There are feelings of the human heart too deep and true to be expressed in words. Such is my admiration and love for His Grace, Archbishop Mathieu, both as priest and man. He is a good priest of God; what greater tribute can I pay him? But in addition to his wise and kindly exercise of the sacerdotal and episcopal offices, his dealings with men of all ranks and creeds showed that love for all mankind was the predominating motive of his life. May he long be spared to us who need him so much!

D. BUCKLES.

Hon. Daniel Buckles
Battleord

GESTA DEI

Scholarly, cultured, revered man of God, honoured by the King of our country, the Republic of France and by most of the Universities in Canada, Mgr. Mathieu is beloved by all who know him, and respected even by those who only know of him. Some seventeen years ago we welcomed him to Regina; since then he has, in the spiritual order, put into practice the spirit of the League of Nations, and the Kellogg proposals, ever seeking to outlaw war by exercising towards all a Christ-like tolerance and charity. He has spent his life among us in guiding our faltering steps along the paths of virtue and in helping his clergy to attain the heights of sacerdotal perfection to which his example ever allures.

H. Y. MACDONALD.

Hon. H. Y. MacDonald
Appeal Court, Regina

Cet homme aux vues larges, doué d'une connaissance profonde du coeur humain, désireux de rendre justice à tous, a cherché pendant toute sa carrière épiscopale à faire régner l'union et l'harmonie au Canada. Nous, les catholiques du sud de la Saskatchewan, avons été les premiers à bénéficier de sa politique bienfaisante. Nous vivons en paix avec nos concitoyens que ne sont pas catholiques; comme eux nous aimons le Canada, notre patrie commune, et nous travaillons ensemble à son développement et à sa prospérité. Tout cela nous le devons, en grande partie, à la sagesse, à l'esprit de charité et au patriotisme de notre archevêque.

On me pardonnera d'ajouter que si Monseigneur Mathieu est le chef de l'Eglise catholique de Régina, il représente aussi dans cette Province, — et nous savons tous avec quelle dignité, — la race canadienne française, celle des découvreurs et des pionniers du Canada. Nous, ses compatriotes de la Saskatchewan, qui le connaissons de vieille date et l'avons vu à l'oeuvre depuis le jour où il nous fut envoyé de Québec, nous sommes contents de collaborer, dans la faible mesure de nos forces, à l'oeuvre patriotique qu'il poursuit, et nous sommes fiers du prestige que sa haute personnalité projette sur notre groupe.

ALPHONSE GRAVEL.

Hon. Alphonse Gravel
Gravelbourg

To Quebec Monseigneur Mathieu so lavished his great talents that it may be said there are few if any of the present generation of her sons now in political and professional life who do not owe much to him. Begin and Laurier were his friends: Lemieux, Lapointe, Cannon, his disciples. He came to Saskatchewan as the greatest gift of Quebec.

In the pioneer days when Royal and Forget represented the Crown, Tache, Langevin, Grandin and Pascal were Bishops of the Church, Lacombe, Leduc and Hugonard, her great missionaries. Archbishop Mathieu came to us, a man of great learning and experience in human affairs when his powers were of wondrous service in assisting to mould the thoughts of a Province, even now one of the greatest in the Dominion. He taught us faith in the destiny of the Province and in ourselves. Above all he ceases not to teach us tolerance—that there is room for all, that each nationality can contribute something to the well-being of the whole, that the thoughts and creeds of others are to be respected. To me, an Englishman by birth, he appears as the sanest of Imperialists inasmuch as he recognizes that the King of England is also King of this Dominion because the freedom granted by the British Crown and the Mother of Parliaments evokes loyalty and is the sure protection of tolerance.

REGINALD RIMMER.

Hon. Reginald Rimmer
Regina

GESTA DEI

Beyond all expressiveness of language one of the finest things Archbishop Mathieu has done for Canada is the initiative he has lent to sport.

An oarsman of no mean ability was O. E. Mathieu at a time when sculling in Canada was in its infancy.

Rector of Laval he introduced and fostered sport as a primal factor in the student curriculum.

As Archbishop in the West he has contributed on an enormous scale to the spread of sporting activities throughout the prairies and to the ensuing harmony among our cosmopolitan peoples. Intimate experiences throughout Manitoba, Alberta and the great Province of Saskatchewan have given me to know whereof I speak.

P. Egan

*Peter Egan, Esq.
Famed Sportsman, Regina*



Tous le vénèrent;—plusiers lui ont voué une affection qui ressemble à un culte. Aussi, quelle influence n'a-t-il pas exercé sur les générations formées dans notre ville pendant près d'un demi-siècle.

Partout, par ses conseils et sa prédication il sème la vérité dans les âmes. Il bâtit des églises; il fonde des paroisses de diverses langues pour répondre aux besoins des fidèles appartenant à différentes nationalités. Il crée deux collèges classiques et multiplie les pretres et les institutions religieuses afin de pouvoir aux besoins spirituels de la population bigarrée de son jeune et vaste diocèse.

Son ascendant s'exerce sur tous ceux qui l'approchent sans distinction de races ou de croyances, et quelque soit leur rang dans la hiérarchie sociale. A tous il donne les lumières de son intelligence et la bonté de son coeur, afin de les rapprocher tous, de plus en plus, de la vérité dont il est l'apôtre et de les grouper dans la paix dont il est le bienfaisant ouvrier.

+ f. Raymond
Card. Rouleau. O. P.

His Eminence Cardinal Rouleau
Primate of Canada, Archbishop of
Quebec



GESTA DEI

Depuis les jours où vous exerciez avec votre grand talent et votre large coeur, l'apostolat de l'éducateur, dans votre cher Séminaire de Québec et au sein de l'Université Laval, jusqu'aux années de l'épiscopat particulièrement fécond qui est le vôtre, dans l'ouest canadien, vous avez toujours répandu autour de vous la profonde et salutaire influence de votre aménité.

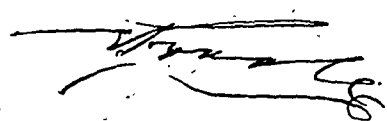
Il ne m'appartient pas de rappeler les bienfaits que maintes générations d'étudiants doivent à vos qualités d'éducateur et de père; personne parmi ceux-là,—on me l'a souvent dit,—n'a oublié la fermeté de votre direction intelligente ni la justesse des conseils paternels qui venaient tout naturellement de votre coeur.

Mais ce que je peux bien rappeler, dans un sentiment de gratitude, en ce bel anniversaire, c'est que même les milieux politiques ont subi le charme de votre personne, l'ascendant de votre esprit, la fascination de ce magnétisme qui enveloppe votre parole, votre geste, votre démarche, votre sourire.

Là comme partout ailleurs, vous avez passé en faisant le bien. Votre appréciation des événements et des actes publics n'a jamais manqué d'être écoutée des autorités qui vous la demandaient et l'histoire dira combien la patrie canadienne doit à votre désintéressement, à votre patriotisme éclairé.

A quoi attribuer l'heureuse solution que vous avez su obtenir de maints problèmes épineux sinon à votre grande largeur de vues, à la douceur de votre commerce, qui vous ont valu, en des milieux très divers, des amitiés précieuses et une estime générale?

Pour tout cela, vos concitoyens, sans exception, vous disent aujourd'hui un sincère merci, et je suis heureux de vous apporter l'expression unanime de leur reconnaissance et de leurs félicitations toute spontanées.



Hon. Narcisse Perodeau
Lieutenant Governor, Quebec



QUEBEC

On ne peut songer à la carrière extrêmement active et admirablement remplie de Sa Grandeur Monseigneur Mathieu sans être frappé de l'influence extraordinaire qu'a exercée sur ses contemporains ce très distingué prélat.

Né au sein de notre brave et remuante population de Saint-Roch, il n'y compte, dès sa jeunesse, que des amis. Pendant trente-trois années d'enseignement philosophique au Séminaire de Québec il gardera un contact étroit avec ce quartier populeux, qui est comme le cœur de notre vieille capitale, et auquel son ami intime, sir Wilfrid Laurier, est resté lui-même attaché durant sa longue carrière politique.

Mais si Monseigneur Mathieu a illustré la chaire de philosophie, son zèle s'est déployé dans maintes autres sphères de l'enseignement supérieur. Après avoir été préfet des études, il fut élu directeur onze années consécutives, et occupa ultérieurement pendant dix ans, les hautes fonctions de supérieur du Séminaire et de recteur de l'Université Laval. Il travailla inlassablement à former et à enrichir l'esprit des générations qui se sont succédées de 1880 à 1910, dans cette vénérable institution du premier évêque canadien.

Dans la magistrature, dans la vie publique, dans les professions libérales, au sein du clergé séculier et régulier, les hommes ne se comptent plus qui ont subi l'heureuse influence de ce grand éducateur.

Sa constante bonne humeur, la finesse et la profondeur de son esprit, la charité qu'il s'efforçait de communiquer imperceptiblement à ceux qu'il était appelé à diriger. Sa bonté et son dévouement n'avaient d'égaux que sa science et son expérience des hommes.

Toute la population de Québec vit à regret partir Monseigneur Mathieu pour occuper l'évêché de Régina. Cette investiture lui a cependant permis de réaliser ce qu'il

GESTA DEI

ambitionnaît depuis longtemps: une union plus étroite des nouvelles provinces de l'Ouest aux vieilles provinces de l'Est. Il ne se contente point de consacrer sans ménagement à son oeuvre pastorale une santé ébranlée par l'excès même de ses travaux. Jugeant insuffisants les résultats admirables qui lui valurent son esprit d'ordre et son jugement ouvert dans l'organisation si difficile du diocèse de Regina et de la province ecclésiastique de Saskatchewan, il trouve cependant le temps de fréquenter les esprits dirigeants de l'opinion anglaise dans l'Ouest et de leur faire mieux connaître et apprécier les Canadiens-Français. L'honorable M. Charles Dunning a rendu un haut témoignage au rôle bienfaisant rempli dans l'Ouest par Monseigneur Mathieu.

Dans l'oraison funèbre de sir Wilfrid Laurier, monseigneur Mathieu eut l'occasion de parler des questions délicates qui divisent même les honnêtes gens, tant elles sont d'ordre complexe. C'est avec émotion que, dans cette circonstance solennelle, il résuma l'une des plus chères aspirations qu'il partageait avec son célèbre ami défunt. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, déclara-t-il, avait bien compris que les nationalités diverses qui se disputent l'influence et la prépondérance en ce pays, ne sont pas essentiellement des adversaires, qu'elles ne doivent pas confondre rivalité et hostilité, ni croire que la concorde mène nécessairement à la fusion.

Unir les deux races sans les assimiler, faire régner l'harmonie entre des éléments hétérogènes, tel a été l'objet des efforts de monseigneur Mathieu. Charité, tolérance, justice, tels sont les principes grâce auxquels ce digne successeur de Monseigneur de Laval a fait régner le calme où il y avait trouble et l'entente où il y avait discorde.

L. A. Taschereau

Hon. L. A. Taschereau
Prime Minister of Quebec

GESTA DEI



For sixty years Archbishop Mathieu has played an outstanding part in the upbuilding of Canada. He has served his country faithfully in war and in peace, carrying the word of God to her farthest boundaries, and he has earned the love and esteem of every Canadian. It is an honour to be among those who wish him happiness on his golden jubilee.

Arthur Currie

Sir Arthur Currie
McGill University, Montreal

GESTA DEI

Sa Grandeur Monseigneur Mathieu, on ne le proclamera jamais assez haut, est une des plus belles et des plus grandes figures de notre vie nationale. Il a servi Dieu et l'Eglise avec éclat; il a servi la Patrie avec gloire, et, durant certaines périodes tourmentées de notre vie politique, son rôle de pasteur d'âmes fut sublime.

Lomer Gouin

Sir Lomer Gouin
President, University of Montreal



The Tribute of Laval

Deux champs d'action se sont partagé la vie de Monseigneur Mathieu: le Séminaire de Québec et l'Université Laval, puis le diocèse de Régina, et l'Ouest canadien. Dans le premier il dépensa toute l'ardeur de sa jeunesse, et la force de sa maturité; dans le second, il apporta à cinquante huit ans, l'expérience d'une vie jusque là tout entière consacrée aux oeuvres l'éducation, et il prodigua sans compter les énergies surnaturelles d'une âme d'apôtre préparée aux tâches sublimes de l'épiscopat.

Au moment où l'on célèbre les noces d'or sacerdotales de ce Vénéré jubilaire, au moment où à Régina, tout l'Ouest canadien rendent hommage aux travaux du grand arch-évêque, il a paru bon d'évoquer aussi cette moitié si large, et si chère de sa vie, que Mgr. Mathieu consacra à l'oeuvre du Séminaire de Québec et de l'Université Laval.

Le Séminaire! Quelle image douce et profonde il a laissée dans la mémoire et au coeur du vénérable arch-évêque! Image ancienne qui s'y imprima dès les premiers jours d'enfance.

Monseigneur Mathieu avait douze ans quand, en 1865, il entra comme externe au Petit Séminaire de Québec. Il commençait alors, dans la classe de Septième, des études classiques qui furent aimées, sérieuses, brillantes et qu'il termina en 1874. De la maison paternelle de Saint-Roch l'écolier montait chaque jour avec grande joie au Séminaire. Il se plaisait dans le commerce de ses compagnons de labeur, mais surtout dans les travaux qui ouvrent et ennoblissent l'esprit, dans les disciplines qui forment la volonté.

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Aussitôt les études classiques terminées, le jeune homme qui avait toujours entrevu dans ses rêves d'adolescent l'idéal du sacerdoce, résolut de se consacrer à Dieu. Dès l'automne de 1874, il entra au Grand Séminaire pour y faire ses études théologiques et se préparer à la prêtrise.

A cette époque où le clergé suffisait à peine aux besoins du ministère paroissial, on avait souvent besoin de mettre à contribution, soit pour l'enseignement, soit pour la surveillance ou d'autres emplois subalternes de la maison, les jeunes séminaristes du Grand Séminaire, même ceux de première année. Le jeune abbé Mathieu, dont on connaissait déjà les remarquables aptitudes, fut tout de suite réquisitionné. Pendant les deux premières années il fut professeur de cinquième; et pendant les deux dernières il fut assigné à la Procure.

Ce dernier emploi laissait au jeune séminariste plus de temps pour qu'il les termina par le doctorat.

Le juin 1878, l'abbé Mathieu recevait l'onction sacerdotale.

Ce fut au lendemain de cette ordination que les autorités du Séminaire, qui avaient apprécié les grandes qualités de l'esprit et du cœur du nouveau prêtre, demandèrent à l'Archévêque de Québec de laisser à l'œuvre du Séminaire un auxiliaire que l'ont savait être si précieux. L'abbé Mathieu fut donc, dès ce moment, attaché au ministère de l'enseignement et de l'éducation. Fixé au Séminaire, où le retenaient d'ailleurs ses goûts et ses désirs d'être utile aux jeunes, il devait y vivre trente trois ans, et ne quitter la chère vieille Maison qu'en 1911, lorsque Rome l'éleva à la dignité épiscopale et l'appela au nouveau siège de Régina.

Monseigneur Mathieu occupa au Séminaire toutes les fonctions qui reclamaient le plus de dévouement et le plus d'intelligence.

Dès l'automne de 1878, il devint professeur de Philosophie. Pendant quatre années, de 1878 à 1882, il donna avec grand succès cet enseignement, qu'il ne quitta provisoirement qu'en 1882 pour aller à Rome faire un séjour d'études sous la direction des maîtres des universités



Venerabili Fratri

Monsieur Eleazar Mathieu

Archevêque de Reims

avec Ophélie Baudouin

18.11.28 Giuseppe XI

ILLUMINATED ENVOI OF HIS HOLINESS FROM
THE VATICAN STUDIOS.



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romaines. A la fin de cette année, l'abbé Mathieu passait avec succès ses examens pour le doctorat en Philosophie et en Saint-Thomas. Ces diplômes s'ajoutaient à celui de docteur en théologie qui, en 1878, à l'Université Laval, avait couronné les études du Séminariste de Québec.

En 1883, l'abbé Mathieu revint au pays reprendre sa chaire de Philosophie de la Faculté des Arts de l'Université Laval. Il devait en quelque sorte s'identifier avec cette chaire qu'il ne quittera que pendant les six dernières années de son rectorat, de 1902 à 1908. Professeur de Philosophie de 1878 à 1882, de 1883 à 1902, puis de 1908 à 1911, Monseigneur Mathieu a formé selon les saines disciplines de la philosophie scolastique des générations d'étudiants qui gardèrent le meilleur souvenir d'un enseignement qui fut à la fois solide et agréable, abstrait et clair, où les théories les plus subtiles s'illustraient toujours d'exemples topiques de métaphores imprévues, de gestes descriptifs, d'expressions populaires, de comparaisons pittoresques. Le professeur qui parlait avec aisance la langue latine, développait avec une spéciale ferveur d'argumentation, et une sorte d'enthousiasme apostolique les thèses fondamentales de la psychologie, de la philosophie morale ou sociale. Il faisait alors passer dans sa parole toute son âme de prêtre et d'éducateur.

En même temps qu'il enseigna le Philosophie, M. l'abbé Mathieu occupa au Séminaire et à l'Université les charges d'administration les plus importantes.

Dès 1883, il fut nommé Préfet des Etudes, et si l'on excepte trois ou quatre années où il y fut remplacé par d'autres titulaires, il exerça pratiquement cette fonction jusqu'à 1894.

En 1888, M. l'abbé Mathieu fut aussi nommé Directeur du Petit Séminaire. Il devait rester à ce poste jusqu'en 1899, alors qu'il devint Supérieur du Séminaire et Recteur de l'Université Laval. Ces onze années de directorat comptent parmi les plus laborieuses et les plus fécondes. L'abbé Mathieu y donna toute la mesure de son âme d'apôtre et d'éducateur. Aucune fonction n'est, certes, plus chargée de hautes et bienfaisantes responsabilités. Le

directeur du Petit Séminaire, c'est l'âme de la communauté qu'il dirige; et c'est l'âme qui doit former d'autres âmes. A ce travail de formation de la jeunesse, M. l'abbé Mathieu s'appliqua avec une rare intelligence et avec un large coeur. Il ne fut pas seulement un gardien de discipline, il fut aussi et surtout un animateur de vie, un guide des consciences, un moniteur d'idéal, un directeur d'esprit.

Il apportait à l'oeuvre nouvelle qui lui était confiée non seulement une âme sacerdotale, mais aussi une ardeur toute naturelle, jeune, qui le fit se donner sans réserve—et parfois avec quelle impétuosité à la tâche quotidienne. Nulle part, l'abbé Mathieu ne s'est révélé davantage lui-même avec toute la richesse de son coeur et toute l'impatience de son zèle. Qui ne se souvient, parmi ses anciens élèves, et de ses extrêmes tendresses et de ses extrêmes colères? Colères toujours saintes, paternelles dans leurs formes, souvent fort pittoresques dans leurs expressions verbales. A ces moments psychologiques de la direction, c'est tout le terroir de Saint-Roch avec son généreux vocabulaire qui remontait aux lèvres de l'abbé Mathieu. Et de telles et si originales explosions de tempérament justifiaient presque l'élève de les avoir provoquées!

C'est, d'ailleurs, toujours aux plus nobles instincts de l'enfant que s'adressait le directeur; c'est par la persuasion qu'il voulait agir; c'est la volonté personnelle qu'il s'efforçait d'entraîner au devoir; c'est l'âme tout entière qu'il voulait belle et généreuse. Et rien ne contribua mieux à procurer ces résultats, que la parole de l'abbé Mathieu quand il s'adressait à sa communauté. Ses anciens n'ont jamais oublié les entretiens du soir à la Salle de récréation, et ceux-là surtout du dimanche que l'on attendait avec une curieuse avidité. Le prêtre qui élevait ses enfants pour la science et la vertu, ne cessait alors de leur rappeler les grands devoirs de leur formation. Avec une chaleur de conviction qui pénétrait tous ses discours, avec une abondance de mémoire qui les émaillait de gracieuses anecdotes, ou d'attachantes citations, le directeur faissait toujours sur l'esprit des élèves qui l'écoutaient une profonde impression. Son éloquence savait se faire jeune pour aller plus sûrement

vers tant de jeunes âmes qu'il voulait toujours meilleures.

Et si tant de paroles vibrantes faisaient tant de bien, c'est qu'elles étaient chargées d'une affection qui se donnait à tous, et d'un dévouement qui ne se lassait jamais. Le directeur aimait ses élèves; il aimait son ministère auprès d'eux; il savait tout le bien qu'un prêtre peut faire à une âme de quinze ou vingt ans qui cherche sa voie ou qui s'oriente vers l'avenir; et les élèves qui se savaient aimés allaient avec la plus entière confiance vers cet homme qui ne paraissait vivre que pour eux.

C'est par une telle conception de son rôle, plus encore que par l'application des règlements de la maison, que le directeur exerçait une salutaire influence. Les règlements ne sont guère, par eux-mêmes, éducateurs, s'ils ne sont maniés par une âme haute, large et ferme qui leur donne leur sens et leur efficacité.

Mgr. Mathieu avait le don de faire accepter la règle, de lui faire consentir de nécessaires sacrifices. Les élèves, d'ailleurs, savaient trop bien quel dévouement inépuisable, quelle charité complète apportait à leur service le directeur, pour lui refuser leur docilité, et pour contrister son affection. Si, cependant même sous une telle et douce autorité, la règle souffrit nécessairement de l'espièglerie légère des écoliers—c'est son inévitable sort—du moins l'esprit des enfants et des jeunes gens, supérieurement éclairé de la lumière du précepte, s'élevait volontiers, sous l'influence du directeur, dans la pratique et la générosité du renoncement.

Et le directeur, conscient de son influence et du ministère spirituel qu'il accomplissait, était heureux au milieu de ses chers élèves. Il y vécut probablement les années de sa vie qui lui ont laissé les plus chers souvenirs.

Mais, en 1899, il fallut à l'abbé Mathieu laisser sa charge préférée de directeur. Ses confrères l'appelaient aux fonctions plus hautes de Supérieur du Séminaire et de Recteur de l'Université Laval. Le champ d'action s'élargissait sous le regard et la main du prêtre.

* * * *

Sans doute, en 1899, l'Université Laval n'avait pas

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encore pris tout les développements qui depuis une dizaine d'années surtout ont multiplié ses activités, et avec elles les charges et les responsabilités du Recteur. Tant de transformations accomplies depuis, et tant d'Ecoles Supérieures ou Spéciales qui ont surgi après les grandes souscriptions du public et du gouvernement, ont agrandi son oeuvre, et l'ont faite plus efficace. Le nouveau Recteur de 1899, qui souhaitait tous les progrès possibles, observait d'un oeil attentif les organisations universitaires étrangères et ambitionnait pour l'Université de Québec un plus large ragoonnement. Seules, les ressources insuffisantes tenaient trop longtemps Laval dans l'humilité trop étroite de ses débuts.

Du moins l'abbé Mathieu s'appliqua-t-il, par son action et ses relations personnelles, à mieux faire connaître sa maison, et à lui conquérir de larges et nécessaires sympathies. Jamais il ne manqua une occasion de sortir de lui-même ou de sa chambre pour faire connaître et apprécier à l'extérieur l'oeuvre qui lui était confiée.

Ce fut sous son Rectorat, en 1902, que l'Université Laval célébra son cinquantenaire. Mgr. Mathieu contribua dans la plus grande mesure, par son influence et son action, au succès de ces fêtes. Ce jubilé fut l'occasion d'un grand ralliement. Le prestige de Mgr Mathieu, et les amitiés que suscitaient partout son nom et son grand coeur, groupèrent tous les anciens autour de *l'Alma Mater*. Et les anciens et le samis voulurent offrir à l'Université le cadeau jubilaire de 100,000 piastres. C'est à l'occasion de ces noces d'or que le Recteur fut élevé à la dignité de Protonotaire Apostolique, et que la France le fit Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Quelques mois auparavant, il avait été créé par Londres Compagnon de l'ordre de Saint-Michel et de Saint-Georges.

Nul plus que Mgr Mathieu ne se réjouit des ressources nouvelles qu'apportait à Laval son cinquantenaire. Il y vit un moyen plus assuré de développer cette institution. Parmi toutes les Facultés de Laval qu'avait créées la Charte de 1852, la Faculté des Arts était assurément celle qui avait le plus souffert des indigences du budget. Elle n'avait

encore aucune organisation d'enseignement supérieur, et ses programmes d'études ne dépassaient pas le secondaire. L'enseignement secondaire de nos collèges avait lui-même souffert de n'avoir pas au-dessus de lui le supérieur, où il aurait pu former ses maîtres et renouveler ses méthodes. Mgr Mathieu et ses collègues du Séminaire et de l'Université constataient depuis longtemps ces lacunes, les déploraient, sans pouvoir y remédier.

Après 1902, on songea à suppléer, dans la mesure du possible, mais encore bien insuffisante, à des disciplines absentes, et Mgr Mathieu favorisa de toute son influence l'établissement d'une chaire de littérature française à l'Université. Cette chaire groupa pendant quelques années, pour les cours publics de nombreux auditoires; elle groupa surtout pour les cours fermés ou didactiques des élèves qui bénéficièrent de ce plus haut enseignement. Ce ne sera que bien plus tard, en 1920, que la Faculté des Arts verra enfin s'organiser, par la fondation de son Ecole Normale Supérieure, l'enseignement supérieur des Lettres, et, quelques années plus tard, par la fondation de l'Ecole Supérieure de Chimie, l'enseignement supérieur des sciences. Cependant, en 1907, Mgr Mathieu eut le joie de voir s'installer à l'Université l'Ecole d'Arpentage que venait de créer le Gouvernement de la Province; et cette Ecole fut, dès le 20 mai 1908, annexée à la Faculté des Arts.

L'enseignement secondaire ou classique, donné dans les collèges affiliés à l'Université Laval, fut souvent, à l'époque du rectorat de Mgr Mathieu, discuté par les maîtres ou dans le public. Ce fut l'époque des fâcheuses réformes de 1902, en France, qui affaiblirent incontestablement en ce pays la culture classique. Il est visible, par les rapports annuels de Mgr Mathieu à l'occasion des séances de fin d'année universitaire que ces questions de réforme ou de sabotage le préoccupaient vivement. Il y exposa longuement et souvent les raisons de notre fidélité aux disciplines anciennes.

Tout en s'inquiétant de la vie intellectuelle de sa maison, le recteur ne négligeait pas la vie spirituelle et morale de ses élèves. C'est Monseigneur Mathieu qui

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organisa, au début de son rectorat, en même temps que la Congregation de la Sainte-Vierge, l'aumônerie des Etudiants, ce ministère opportun qui groupe chaque dimanche dans la Chapelle du Séminaire les élèves des Facultés. Il voulut être lui-même le premier aumonier des Etudiants. Et soit par sa direction au confessionnal et à sa chambre, soit par ses instructions dominicales très assidues, le recteur faisait l'oeuvre la plus bienfaisante auprès des jeunes gens qui lui étaient confiés. Mgr. Mathieu aimait à retrouver là ce commerce des âmes auquel il tenait tant, et où son sacerdoce s'est toujours plu à répandre la grâce et la parole divines. Par ce ministère, Mgr Mathieu savait retenir dans son affection et sous son influence surnaturelle les âmes qui avaient pris contact avec la sienne.

C'est au moment où Monseigneur Mathieu allait cesser d'être supérieur du Séminaire et Recteur de l'Université Laval qu'eurent lieu, en 1908, les fêtes du troisième centenaire de Québec. On se rappelle que Son Altesse Royale le Prince de Galles, devenu depuis Georges V, vint représenter le Roi à ces fêtes mémorables. Le Prince de Galles voulut bien, pendant son séjour à Québec, honorer d'une visite la maison de campagne des Messieurs du Séminaire. Mgr. Mathieu, entouré de ses confrères du Séminaire, y reçut le royal visiteur et sa suite, et y présida le lunch offert sous les bois, à tous les hôtes. Cette journée du Petit Cap, historique dans les Annales de la maison, terminait dans la splendeur d'une fête inoubliable le rectorat de Monseigneur Mathieu.

Après ces neuf années vécues à la tête des deux grandes institutions que sont le Séminaire de Québec et l'Université Laval, Mgr Mathieu fut tout heureux, de retourner à ses cours de philosophie. Tout en se reposant du lourd fardeau qu'il avait si longtemps porté, il reprenait l'enseignement auquel il avait voué sa longue carrière de professeur. De 1908 à 1911 jusqu'à son élévation à l'épiscopat, il occupa à la Faculté des Arts la chaire où aimaient tant à le retrouver ses élèves.

D'ailleurs bien d'autres soins se partageaient alors les journées de Monseigneur Mathieu. Toute sa carrière de

professeur, de directeur du Petit Séminaire, de Supérieur et de Recteur, l'avait mis en relations avec tant de personnes qui lui étaient restées fort attachées! Ceux qui avaient une fois bénéficié de son affection, de ses conseils et de son influence se plaisaient toujours à revenir vers lui. L'homme et le prêtre exerçaient une attirance qui faisait affluer les anciens élèves, les amis, les visiteurs de toute sorte. On avait recours à lui pour des directions à prendre ou des emplois à obtenir. La chambre de Mgr Mathieu, au Séminaire, était devenue un parloir toujours ouvert, une sorte de bureau publique d'amitié, de consultation et de placement. Son inépuisable charité le faisait accueillir avec patience et bonté tous ceux qui s'adressaient à lui. Mgr Mathieu trouvait dans ces audiences quotidiennes et presque autant d'amis que de citoyens, le prêtre qui était aimait à se plaindre—de dépenser son grand coeur. Il y multiplia les liens de tendresse et de bienfaisance qui devaient faire infiniment douloureuse la rupture prochaine.

En effet, le 21 juillet 1911, Monseigneur Mathieu était élu premier évêque de Régina. Rome venait chercher dans ce Québec où s'était écoulée toute sa vie, et où il comptait presque autant d'amis que de citoyens, le prêtre qui était depuis longtemps promis à l'épiscopat.

Mgr Mathieu fut consacré dans la Basilique de Québec, le 5 novembre 1911, et le 14 novembre suivant il disait adieu au Séminaire, à l'Université Laval, à Québec et partait pour Régina.

L'ancien recteur de l'Université Laval s'en allait fonder dans l'Ouest canadien une Eglise nouvelle. Québec savait quelle mission difficile et nécessaire était confié au nouveau pasteur, et avec quel irrésistible dévouement il accomplirait sa tâche. Les précieuses qualités de l'esprit et du coeur, l'extrême cordialité, la bonté conquérante de l'apôtre, qui avaient fait de Mgr Mathieu un éducateur si remarquable, devaient faire de lui un grand évêque, et un bienfaiteur de notre race canadienne-française dans l'Ouest.

Quand l'archevêque de Régina, fatigué de ses travaux et de ses sollicitudes, veut se reposer et retrouver ses jeunes énergies, il revient à Québec, au lieu natal de ses premières

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et de ses plus profondes affections. Il revient au cher vieux Séminaire où il retrouve sa chambre qui l'attendait. . . Aussitôt, le défilé y recommence des amitiés fidèles, des sollicitations indigentes, et des âmes inquiètes. Et Monseigneur Mathieu reçoit, cause, sourit, distribue ses témoignages d'affectueuse tendresse; il continue sa vie d'autrefois dans la maison qui est restée sienne, au milieu de prêtres qui l'aiment toujours comme un frère aîné, comme un père qui reprend au foyer sa place nécessaire.

Camille Roy

*Mgr. Camille Roy
Laval University
Président Royal Society of Canada*

In May 1928 Sir Frederic Haultain conferred on Monseigneur Mathieu the LL.D. causa honoris of Saskatchewan University.—President Walter Murray likening his work in Laval to that of Jowett in Oxford.

In July a huge delegation from the University of Montreal visited His Grace to confer a similar honour, —Canon Emile Chartier stating that to Monseigneur Mathieu the University of Montreal largely owed its existence and identity.

In July McGill University also conferred an LL.D. on Monseigneur Mathieu in recognition of his efforts for a more united Canada.

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I have had the honour and pleasure of knowing Monseigneur Mathieu for over forty years. His friendship has meant a very great deal to me, and my regard and esteem for him is of the highest. The instruction I received from him has in a very large measure enabled me to achieve any success that has come to me. My very good wish goes to him.

Frederick E. Meredith

*Frederick E. Meredith, K.O.
Bank of Montreal, Montreal*

I am sure that besides expressions of appreciation from the eminent, you must have many from those less highly placed. I should like to voice my own feeling that no one has done more for the good of Canada, using the words in their most comprehensive sense, than has Monseigneur Mathieu.

WILFRID BOVEY.

*Lieut.-Col. Wilfrid Bovey
McGill University, Montreal*

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Ne comptez donc pas sur une monographie, encore moins sur une biographie, non plus que j'aie l'intention de retracer la carrière sacerdotale ou d'éducateur de Monseigneur Mathieu. Non, je préfère le draper en l'humble soutane de prêtre sous laquelle a battu et bat encore un coeur généreux et charitable d'apôtre.

Monseigneur Mathieu !

J'ai rarement connu un prêtre plus imbu, plus pénétré de cet Evangile miséricordieux, plus pénétré des sublimes paroles du Sauveur, adressées à ses apôtres, lorsqu'il leur disait :— "Votre mission est surtout vers les brebis perdues. Quel est l'homme, ayant une brebis qui tombe dans un fossé, même le jour du Sabbat, ne la prendrait pas pour l'en retirer ?—"

La charité de Monsieur l'Abbé Mathieu s'inspirait de cet Evangile si touchant.

Ce n'est pas lui qui oubliait, écartait, méprisait les brebis égarées, ce n'est pas lui qui frappait du sceau de la réprobation et de l'anathème, les malheureuses victimes de l'erreur qui s'écartaient du droit chemin.

Sa mission de charité il l'a remplie avec entrain, avec conviction, avec amour. Il ne se contentait pas de faire appel aux brebis égarées, mais il faisait naître l'occasion de les rencontrer et de les visiter, ne brusquant rien, y allant avec mesure, sondant et préparant habilement le terrain. Si la brebis se dérobait, si elle s'éloignait, si elle prenait des détours ou des voies tortueuses, notre Abbé relevait sa soutane, courait après, finissait par la rattraper, lui donnait un bon et affectueux soufflet (car il a toujours eu la manie de la gifle), la faisait plier, mettre à genoux, pleurer et puis, il le fallait bien :..... se confesser.

Sa clientèle se recrutait dans toutes les classes de la société. Pour lui, égalité complète entre les riches et les déshérités, entre les grands et les humbles.

S'il y avait un personnage quelconque, au coeur endurci, un esprit fort, capable d'en remonter aux théologiens, genre de brebis bien rétif, c'était à Monsieur l'Abbé Mathieu qu'on s'adressait pour le ramener au bercail.

J'en ai connu plusieurs qui, sur leur lit de mort, ont béni ce bon pasteur qui les avait ramenés dans le droit chemin.

Si un fils tournait à mal, causait des chagrins à sa famille par ses désordres, ses malheureuses liaisons, vite on avait recours à Monsieur Mathieu.

Combien de citoyens réformés doivent, aujourd'hui, à ce bon prêtre, la haute et enviable position sociale qu'ils occupent!

L'histoire a ses droits, mais elle s'arrête au seuil de l'intimité. Si elle était toute connue, que de révélations et de surprises!

Si la discorde s'élevait dans un ménage, le grand racordeur ou réconciliateur était encore Monsieur Mathieu.

Si une affliction subite, un malheur cruel, frappait une femme et des enfants, il n'y avait pas de meilleur consolateur, dans ces douloureuses épreuves, que l'Abbé Mathieu.

Voilà, en partie, la clientèle qu'il desservait avec dévouement et avec esprit de religion, car la charité lui était facile et apportait, dans sa vie, un rayonnement qui l'enivrait.

La charité a toujours séduit les esprits supérieurs.

Il n'y a pas une page plus attendrissante, qu'on ne lit pas sans des larmes aux yeux, que celle dans "Les Misérables" où V. Hugo parle de ce bon et compatissant Monseigneur Bienvenue, cet Evêque fictif, qu'on regrette de n'être pas être un personnage réel.

La chambre de l'Abbé Mathieu offre un point de comparaison: c'était le rendez-vous de ceux qui sont aux prises avec les misères de la vie. C'était, à vrai dire, un hôpital privé et non subventionné, pour la guérison ou le soulagement des coeurs malades.

F. L. Lemieux

Sir François Lemieux
Chief Justice, Quebec

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I was eleven years old when I first met Abbé Mathieu on my arrival from Arthabaska to start my classical course at the old Quebec Seminary; Father Mathieu had just been made "Director". His kindness, devotion, interest in all our concerns made him my best friend and confident from the start. He was my spiritual adviser, my professor of philosophy and guide. He was Rector of Laval University when I received in 1899 from his hands my degree in Law, which bears his signature.

In many ways Mgr. Mathieu was the inspirer, the guiding spirit of several generations of students who now are leaders of opinion in professional and political circles in Eastern Canada. Most of the leaders, Conservatives and Liberals, were his old pupils; with a warm feeling of affection for him, they felt anxious in their private and public conduct to deserve the approval of their old teacher.

His well trained and well balanced mind, steeped in the teachings of St. Thomas, has always helped Mgr Mathieu to avoid and discourage exaggerated views that would have transplanted in Canada, the politico-religious warfare that has devastated some European countries with deplorable results to the religious life and progress of their citizens.

His Grace has continued in Western Canada the good work which made him dear to the old Province of Quebec. As in days of yore we have sent from the ancient Capital our very best to help the development of your part of Canada. Rome, in its wisdom chose a scholar, a man of wide experience to pilot the destinies of the Church in the younger and great Province of Saskatchewan.

From all accounts Mgr Mathieu is the friend, counselor of every rank and denomination in your midst.

Hon. Mr. Dunning made a great advance in the affection of Quebecers, when he told us at a banquet at the Chateau Frontenac last Fall, that he had learned to love the French Canadians, appreciate their ideals and realize the value of their contribution to Canadian nationhood, through his acquaintance and friendship with Mgr. Mathieu.

ARTHUR CANNON.

Hon. Arthur Cannon
Quebec



Quel est donc le trait dominant chez ce prélat qui jouit de l'estime universelle?

Certes, on doit s'incliner devant sa grande vertu. Sa science sacrée l'a maintes fois signalé à l'admiration de ses collègues de l'épiscopat.

Comme éducateur de la jeunesse il a pris place parmi les sommités de nos collèges et de nos universités.

Comme prédicateur, il brille par la justesse de sa doctrine et la simplicité de son élocution. La conviction s'attache à ses paroles et la vérité pénètre sans effort chez ses auditeurs.

Mais on doit rechercher encore ailleurs la raison de son influence remarquable sur les hommes et de son pouvoir sur les âmes.

Cette qualité, ou plutôt cette vertu, qui chez lui domine tous les autres attributs, c'est la bonté.

La douceur émane de toute sa personne, sa parole est un chant qui repose et rafraîchit les âmes inquiètes.

Voilà de quoi est fait principalement le magnétisme qui, chez Mgr. Mathieu attire sous sa houlette les vieux et les jeunes, les bons et les dévoyés, qui fait de lui l'ami et le conseiller de tant d'hommes que séparent l'âge et la croyance religieuse.

Senator Henri S. Beland, M.D.
Quebec

GESTA DEI

Avez vous fait autre chose, depuis au-delà de ces cinquante années de prêtrise, que d'être bon, que de donner, de donner le meilleur de vous-même, c'est à dire le meilleur du meilleur des prêtres? Donner, pardonner, c'est vous tel que nous vous avons toujours vu faire; enrichir les autres, votre patrie ou le plus pauvre gueux, vous n'avez fait que cela, qui est avoir tout fait. "C'est dommage, a-t-on dit, qu'un coeur d'or ne se monnaie pas." Mais, le votre! Qui donc n'y a puisé—sans en jamais tarir la richesse—les trésors qui ont mis dans sa vie plus de bonheur, qui ont souvent renouvelé cette vie, qui en ont écarté tant de perils et de souffrance?

Ferdinand Roy

Hon. Ferdinand Roy
Quebec

Comme il l'a fait pour mille autres, il m'a guidé et protégé de toutes façons. Je lui en conserve une reconnaissance illimitée, et je le vénère religieusement.

ADOLPHE STEIN.

Hon. Adolphe Stein
Quebec

As a national figure, Mgr. Mathieu ranks high, and on such men does Canada rely to march forward in the road of progress and bring about a more united Canada, which Mgr. Mathieu and other outstanding Canadians are consistently striving for.

His Grace impresses me as a man with a great heart, of a great dignity, without aloftness, and possessed of an understanding with his fellow citizens of all creeds and races which endear him to all.

LOUIS RUBENSTEIN.

Alderman Louis Rubenstein
Montreal

GESTA DEI

Le Ciel donne aux peuples les Chefs qu'ils méritent:—

Aussi, je ne m'étonne pas que les héroïques pionniers de la province de la Saskatchewan, si féconde et si riche d'avenir, aient reçu en qualité de premier chef ecclésiastique, le concitoyen que nous entourions ici de la plus haute considération et que nous voyions s'avancer sagement vers la plus haute dignité de l'église de Québec.—

Il était probablement écrit quelque part dans les desseins de la Providence qu'un ecclésiastique sorti de l'antique et longtemps unique paroisse du Canada, irait un jour, avec le titre d'Archevêque, fonder un siège épiscopal dans les lointaines régions desservies autrefois par l'évêque de Québec et ses missionnaires — Fructueux trait d'union entre le passé et le présent et tout à l'honneur de son auteur.—

AUG. CHOQUETTE.

*Senator Aug. Choquette
Quebec*

C'est à la Maison de vacances des Messieurs du Séminaire de Québec que j'appris à connaître Monseigneur Mathieu, vers 1880. Il était l'organisateur des amusements et le chef de longues courses à travers champs et forêts. L'escalade des montagnes ne l'effrayait pas et j'imagine que, à l'exemple de son illustre Maître, le Pape actuel, il eut tenté hardiment l'ascension des Alpes!

Plusieurs fois, je pénétrai avec plaisir et profit dans la chambre du Recteur de l'Université Laval. L'ancien professeur de Métaphysique n'oubliait jamais de m'encourager dans la culture des sciences physiques.

A Rome, en 1914, j'eus la confirmation de toutes mes dispositions à son égard, lorsque le Cardinal Merry del Val, sitôt faites les premières salutations, me demanda: "Comment se porte Monseigneur Mathieu?" Ce jour là je fus fier du bon renom de mon compatriote.

C. P. CHOQUETTE.

*Mgr. C. P. Choquette
The Seminary, St. Hyacinthe, P. Q.*

GESTA DEI

Vos succès si grands et si constants sont le produit des méthodes profondément humaines, si constamment charitables pour tous et toujours appuyées sur un inaltérable amour de Dieu et de la Patrie.

Vous vous êtes fait tout à tous et vous avez gagné l'admiration et l'affection profondes de tous ceux qui ont eu le bonheur de vous connaître et en même temps le respect également profond de ceux qui ne partagent pas la foi catholique.

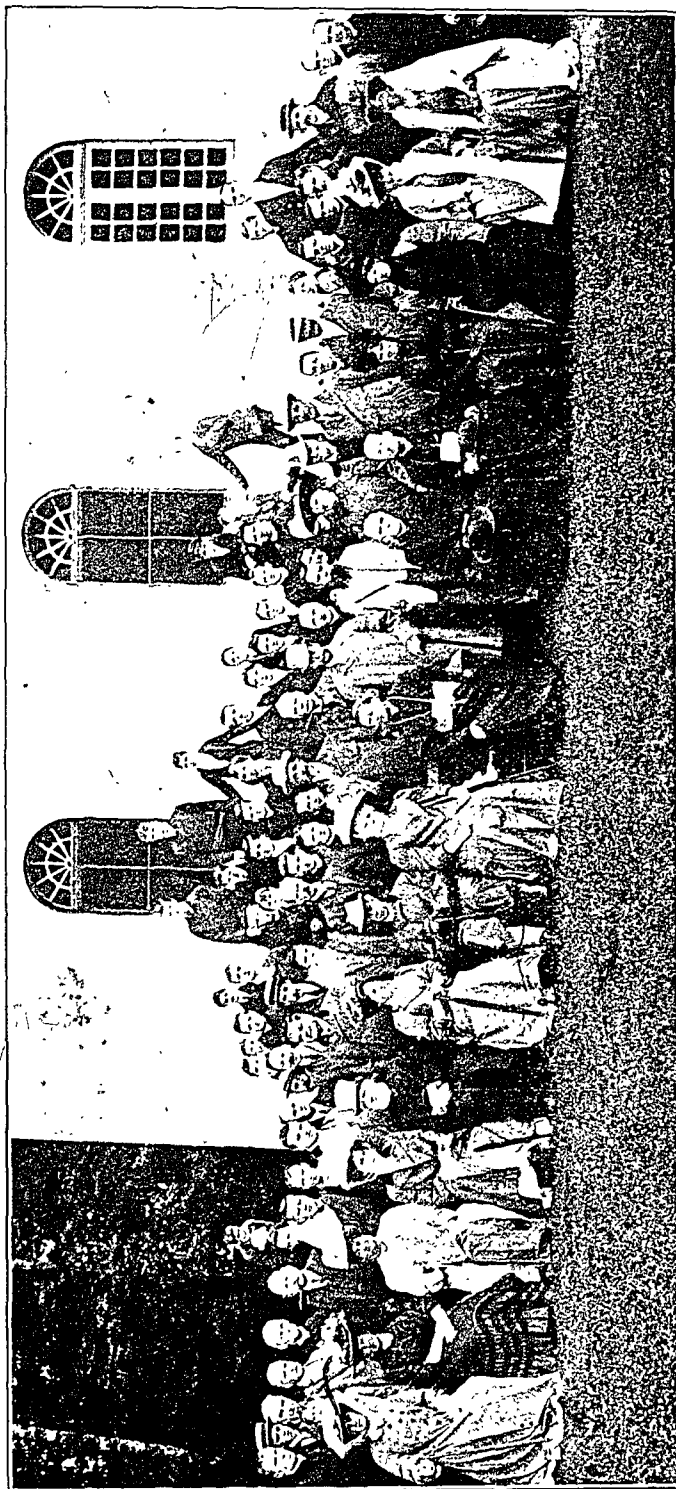
N. A. Belcourt

Senator N. A. Belcourt
Ottawa

Est-il possible qu'un demi-siècle se soit si vite écoulé? Il me semble vous voir encore jeune prêtre au séminaire, où je vous rencontrais parfois, avec le jeune abbé Bruchesi, et d'autres amis, ecclésiastiques ou laïques, de notre génération. Il en reste bien peu de ce temps. Je remercie du fond du cœur le bon Dieu de vous avoir conservé à ceux qui survivent. Il savait que vos amis, que vos compatriotes, que votre pays et votre église ont besoin de vous, et Il nous a fait la grande grâce de vous conserver à nous. Qu'Il en soit béni!

M. Chapais

Senator Thos. Chapais
Quebec



Round the person of King George V., note, from left to right: Lord Strathcona, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, His Eminence Cardinal Sbarretti, His Grace Mar. Mathieu, His Eminence Cardinal Bégin; rear: Mgr. Pelletier, Lord Shaughnessy, Hon. L. A. Taschereau, Hon. R. Lemieux, Sir L. Guin, Dr. Trudelle (Reynolds), Sir Geo. Guaneau, His Grace Mar. Sinnott, Mgr. Marois, Mgr. Paquet, Lord Grey, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, Sir James P. Whitney, Sir Joseph Pope, Mgr. Camille Roy. The photograph, most interesting of Canadians, was taken at Petit Cap.

GESTA DEI

Sa Grandeur Monseigneur Mathieu mérite une inscription spéciale dans les annales de notre pays.

Aussi, ses anciens élèves, ses ouailles, ses concitoyens, ses compatriotes, ses nombreux amis et admirateurs vont-ils l'y brûler en têtes d'or. Certes, ce ministre de Dieu, cet éducateur, cet apôtre, cet officier de liaison entre les diverses unités de la population canadienne, bref, ce bon et fidèle serviteur de l'Eglise et de l'Etat, a de nombreux titres à une telle appréciation. CYRILLE F. DELAGE.

Hon. Cyrille Delage,
Quebec

Vous avez été grand par le sentiment comme par l'intelligence et l'avenir vous rangera parmi la lignée des apôtres de bien et de vérité.

Québec qui vous a tant aimé, vous gardera fierement toujours comme un bien national, et votre souvenir vénéré restera indélébilement dans les cœurs de toute notre population.

Votre oeuvre est une de nos plus belles pages de l'histoire Canadienne et elle sera toujours reconnue comme telle, par tous les éléments de notre pays.

GEO. E. AMYOT.

Hon. Geo. E. Amyot
Quebec

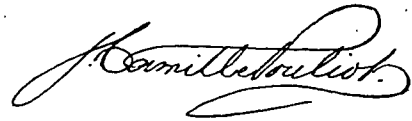
Votre Grandeur le sait, aucune journée n'a pu se passer dans ma vie sans penser à vous, à la tendresse vraiment paternelle avec laquelle vous avez traité mon jeune fils Charles lorsqu'il était sous votre protection au Séminaire de Québec; puis à la générosité toute fraternelle que vous avez incessamment versée sur la tête de mon fils aîné, Alphonse, depuis que vous êtes entré à Régina, dans la belle Province de la Saskatchewan.

ONESIPHORE TURGEON.

Senator Onesiphore Turgeon,
Bathurst, N.B.

G E S T A D E I

Monseigneur Mathieu possédait le rare talent de "diagnostiquer", avec une justesse d'intuition quasi-maternelle, la diversité des caractères, des tempéraments, des humeurs de la gent écolière; il avait le don de deviner l'état d'âme de chacun de ses élèves et mieux que personne savait s'attempérer aux circonstances et faire fléchir les rigueurs des règlements devant les sollicitations d'une inlassable bonté native.



Hon. Camille Pouliot
Quebec

For a man of my age this event takes me back to the early days when the archbishop and myself went to college and began then and there to lay the foundation of a friendship which has grown into a very deep attachment. He is the best friend that I ever had, and one of the most gifted.

Perhaps we who were the intimates of his early days are best acquainted with the tenderness of his heart and disposition, the sweetness of his temper, his ripe scholarship and the playfulness of his bright and airy spirit. He is of the Olympian type!

A. AUDETTE.

Hon. A. Audette
Ottawa



ONTARIO

Canadians are not merely honoring in Mgr. Mathieu a man whose name shines with lustre in the pages of Canadian achievements. We are in him honoring the great race to which he belongs and whose place in our Dominion's past, present and future we do not fail to appreciate and acknowledge. It is eminently right on our part to offer French Canada through the gracious person of their great Mathieu our cordial greeting and tribute of esteem. It is no less just than it is patriotic that we do so.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Ferguson".

Prime Minister of Ontario
Hon. Howard Ferguson

GESTA DEI



Twenty-one years ago the University of Toronto conferred an honorary degree on Archbishop Mathieu, who was then Rector of Laval University, and ever since the distinguished career of the Archbishop has been followed by us with interest. We have heard again and again of the influence that he has used in interpreting the two races in Canada to each other, and are aware of the eminent influence which he has held in Western Canada now for many years. It is a pleasure to know that the Archbishop recovered from his serious illness of last summer, and we hope that his health will be such that he will be able to enjoy the expressions of high regard which will greet him on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his entering the Priesthood.

Robert Falconer

Sir Robert Falconer
University of Toronto

G E S T A D E I

As one who has enjoyed the distinguished privilege of your friendship for many years, may I express the hope that you may be granted length of days in which to further carry on the great works of charity, education and administration which have characterized your life as a priest and prelate.

I also hope you may be granted length of days in order that you may continue to preach the gospel of Canadian Unity and National goodwill so that the people of all races and all creeds in this country may meet each other in a broader and a finer spirit of National citizenship.

D. J. McDUGALD.

Duncan J. McDougald, Esq.
Toronto

I admired the broadminded character of His Grace, Archbishop Mathieu of Regina, years before I had the honor of meeting him. From what I had learned about His Grace, I regarded him as a Christian gentleman, as a wise director of religious matters in his Church, as a just and tolerant man, and as a worthy, distinguished, and truly loyal Canadian, who was happy and proud to be a leader in a most important department for the higher development of Canadian citizenship. I rejoiced to find, when I had the privilege of meeting him, virtues greater than I expected him to possess. Dignified, but without formality, refined, cultured, courteous, he impressed me as one who possessed unusual power to make his country a better place in which to live.

James L. Hughes

Inspector Jas. L. Hughes
Toronto

G E S T A D E I

The greatest of the achievements of this great man has been the rare humanity with which he has endeared to us all the simple common things of life—espècially the love of little children.

His lighter joyous view of life has left a rich record in the hearts of little folk in every province in Canada.

JOHN T. DUNN.

John T. Dunn, Esq.
Toronto

Through all the periodic mists of distrust and rancour inevitable in the vibrating new life of a young country, an inspiration to Canada has been the fine enthusiasm which has ever held Monseigneur Mathieu true to the harmonising of our racial elements.

Those who have dedicated their life energies to this great cause can only think of him as a master-mind among great Canadians.

James P. Murray

James P. Murray, Esq.
Toronto

For a long time Monseigneur Mathieu seemed to belong solely to Quebec, the place where he is so loved, and so remembered. But with the passing years it is apparent that he holds a place, almost as dear, in the hearts of the men and women and of the children of the West.

His simplicity and devotion; the nobility of his life and his charming personality, compel admiration. All unconsciously he is regarded as a leader of men.

My recollections take me back to the happy days of my residence in Quebec when the Archbishop was Rector of Laval University. It was there that I learned somewhat of the greatness of his heart and of his unfailing thoughtfulness for the welfare of others. It is indeed a privilege to have known the Archbishop. I owe much to him for his sympathy and advice. Ever speaking words of kindness, of encouragement and of wise counsel, I found in him, as many have found, a guide and a counsellor.

Even after I left Quebec, his kindly spirit followed me, and he manifested a warm interest in my work.

Monseigneur Mathieu holds a place, alone and apart, in the imaginations and memories of men.

My hope is that he may be spared for a long time to make his influence felt, as always, in the promotion of things that are noble and things that are good.

A. G. Doughty

A. G. Doughty, LL.D., Etc.
Dominion Archivist, Ottawa

GESTA DEI



In order that she may live and grow as a nation, Canada must have not only the physical organization but the spiritual life of a nation. It is only by strengthening the sentiment of united Canadianism that we can create and establish firmly the common denominator for divergences of race, of opinion, of commercial interests and of sectional feeling. To work with this great purpose constantly in view is the duty of all Canadian patriots. Archbishop Mathieu has given devoted service to Canada in this way. For that reason and because I have the honour of his acquaintance, I am glad to have the privilege of joining in the congratulations to him on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee in the priesthood and in all good wishes to him in the hope that he may continue for many years more to give light and leading as a strong influence for a more united Canada.

JOHN BRACKEN.

Hon. John Bracken
Prime Minister, Manitoba

Apart altogether from the witchery with which Monseigneur Mathieu's kindliness has wreathed itself around our hearts, his life argument for racial harmony must be hearkened to if the great federal experiment of 1867 is to endure.

H J Macdonald

Sir Hugh John Macdonald
Winnipeg

GESTA DEI

Archbishop Mathieu has been, and is, a powerful influence in the life of Western Canada. He has attained his position of authority because of his unselfish devotion to his religious mission, because of his untiring efforts to arouse the minds of newcomers to a proper sense of the value and the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship, and because of the singular grace and dignity with which he has carried the burdens of his high office. He has brought to the study of Western problems during our troubled formative period a brilliant and a cultivated mind, and ripe experience in dealing with men and affairs. The spell of his personality has been potent far beyond the boundaries of his ecclesiastical domain, and wherever it has been felt it has made for moderation, breadth and balance in deed and in thought. In this, his Golden Jubilee year, the Western people of all classes and of all creeds will gladly embrace the opportunity of paying a tribute of admiration and genuine affection to one, who has wrought faithfully and well, and who has sweetened and enriched the spirit of a young country by breathing into it something of the poise and the quiet charm of old Quebec.

D. C. Coleman

D. C. Coleman, Esq.
Canadian Pacific Railway
Winnipeg

GESTA DEI

Unexcelled devotion to his great Church is in Mgr. Mathieu combined with kindly consideration for all mankind. No exaltation of office could ever impair the Archbishop's solicitude and affection for the most humble human being. Herein is true greatness.

His Grace's pride in Canada and his earnest desire for the mutual forbearance of its people, are most impressive and therein he has set a great example.

It has been a great privilege to me to enjoy acquaintance with His Grace and I sincerely hope he may long be spared to the Dominion as one of its worthy Churchmen and really great citizens.

H. A. Robson

Hon. Justice H. A. Robson
Leader of Liberal Party, Manitoba

Fifty years a priest means that nearly twenty thousand times Archbishop Mathieu has ascended the Altar to offer to Almighty God the Glorious Sacrifice of Calvary. Add to this his long, assiduous labours for God and souls as an educationalist in Eastern Canada and as Bishop in the West, and well may we thank God for the long and fruitful ministry of Archbishop Mathieu.

HENRY J. O'LEARY,

Archbishop O'Leary
Edmonton, Alta.

"Greater love than this no man hath."

*"I am come to cast my fire upon the earth and what will I but
that it be kindled."*



Rosetti—

New France

has given Canada its romantic charm.

*The glamour of Champlain, Maisonneuve,
Frontenac, La Salle enters the atmosphere
of the older business institutions of our
land.*

The Bank of Montreal

Founded in 1817

offers its most gracious compliments to

Monseigneur Mathieu

*To His Grace Archbishop Mathieu, a
man who has exercised the greatest energy,
ability and kindness of heart in promoting
the best interests of this our Dominion,*

*The
Canadian
National
Railways*

*offer congratulations on the occasion of His
Golden Jubilee.*



*Those who have lived within the sphere
of His Grace's influence can bear testimony
to his worth. His unbounded acts of
charity are well known; and he needs only
to be known to be esteemed, not alone for
his public virtues, but for his qualities of
heart and mind.*



The
Canadian Pacific
Railways

in congratulating His Grace,
Monseigneur Mathieu

on the observance of his Golden Jubilee in the service of his Church, honours itself in so doing. His Grace has had a career of unusual significance in the life of the Dominion of Canada, his endeavour having been in some respects similar to that of the Canadian Pacific—that of the betterment of the lives of the peoples in the communities he serves.

Recipient of honorary degrees from the great institutions of learning of his native province of Quebec, and of that newer province of Saskatchewan, the Archbishop of Regina is even more rejoiced in the prayers of thousands of men and women of his Faith, to which are added the blessings of those other creeds in all parts of the Land.

That His Grace may live long in health and happiness, to add lustre to an already brilliant career is the sincere desire of officers and employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The graciousness of the Sixteenth Century is typified in the quaint massiveness of the Norman Chateau which is Quebec's most characteristic architecture. The Chateau Frontenac is the embodiment of the historical splendor of early Canada.

Western Canada is young, but the work of Laval in Quebec has been repeated in Saskatchewan by Monseigneur Mathieu.

On the progress of the past has been built an Hotel which is to the West what the great Hostelry beneath the Citadel has been to the East, the

— Hotel Saskatchewan —

THE HOTEL SASKATCHEWAN
GREETS MONSEIGNEUR MATHIEU
WITH WARMEST FELICITATIONS.

"Gesta Dei per Francos"

RICHELIEU,

*Statesman, Cardinal, achieved great things
for France. Also was he, notably, a maker
of New France.*

*Canada today reaches horizons undreamed
of in Richelieu's age.*

*To-day as then financial acumen and back-
ing plays a vital role in the conduct of Canadian
affairs.*

*To Monseigneur Mathieu we offer
our compliments on the occasion of
his Golden Jubilee.*

*Credit Foncier
Franco-Canadien*

*Head Office: Montreal
Saskatchewan Branch: Regina.*

As Professor and Rector of the great University of Laval for many years you made a remarkable contribution to the cause of education and good citizenship in your native province. Since coming to Regina you have rendered conspicuous service to this province, both as an outstanding patriotic citizen and a Clergyman of high rank in your great Church.

J. G. Nickerson

THE
Saskatchewan General Trusts
Corporation Limited

greet Monseigneur Mathieu on these days of
happy Jubilee.

R. W. LAMPMAN
Manager.

Regina, June, 1928.

On behalf of

The Sterling Trusts Corporation
and
Sterling Securities Corporation
Limited

I wish to extend heartiest greetings to Monseigneur Mathieu on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

LORNE JOHNSON

Regina, June, 1928.

FAITHFULLY HE LABOURED FOR A
GREATER AND NOBLER CANADA.

The Western Trust Company

*greet's Mgr. Mathieu on these happy days of his
Golden Jubilee.*

R. S. RIDEOUT

Regina, June, 1928.

*As a truly Western Institution, it has been our
privilege to be associated with the pioneers and,
as well, the builders of Western Canada :- accord-
ingly we salute you at this time,*

Monseigneur Mathieu

*in recognition of your most invaluable contri-
bution to these works.*

**The Northern Trusts
Company**

Head Office: Winnipeg, Man.

Saskatchewan Office: Regina, Sask.

Messrs. Tingley and Malone

take this opportunity to offer heartiest congratulations to Monseigneur Mathieu.



Regina, June, 1928.

On behalf of Messrs.

Noonan, Fraser, Friedgut
and Heffernan

I extend sincerest compliments to Mgr. Mathieu.

J. A. FRASER



Regina, June, 1928.

*The Religious of the Institute of The Blessed
Virgin Mary,*

Loretto Academy
Sedley, Sask.

*extend sincere congratulations to their kind
Benefactor and Friend, Most-Reverend O. E.
Mathieu, on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.*

Sedley, June, 1928.

LAVAL
TASCHEREAU
BEGIN
MATHIEU

*Great names these in the literature and his-
tory of Canada. By guttering candle-light did
these great scholars pore over the manuscripts,
then so priceless, treasured in seminary libraries.*

*To the scholar and to the man we offer our
hearty congratulations.*

The Regina Book Store

On behalf of the Staff and Management of
Canada Permanent Mortgage Corp.
and
The Canada Permanent Trust Co.

*I tender sincere compliments to Mgr. Mathieu
on the completion by him of many Golden years
of faithful and fruitful service.*

B. S. LAWRENCE

Regina, June, 1928.

*The spirit of the Crusades and mediaeval
thoroughness are the inspiration of the Sisters of
Saint Louis.*

*May we take this opportunity of offering to
Monseigneur Mathieu our congratulations.*

The Sisters of St. Louis

*Moose Jaw—St. Louis
College (for young
boys).*

Radville—Girls' Convent.

*Regina—Normal School
Students' Home.*

*Swift Current—St. Joan
of Arc Academy.*

*Wilcox—Notre Dame
Academy.*

*Willow Bunch—Pasteur
Hospital*

The Manager and Staff of
Imperial Bank of Canada
Regina, Sask.

*extend sincere congratulations to Monseigneur
Mathieu C.M.G. on the noteworthy occasion of
his Golden Jubilee.*

W. L. GILLILAND,
Manager

Regina, June, 1928.

On behalf of
**Messrs. MacKinnon, Rutherford
and MacLean**

*I offer hearty congratulations to Monseigneur
Mathieu.*

A. G. MacKINNON

Regina, June, 1928.

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